RONICLE

Thursday, January 7, 2016

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MAN IN COURT OVER MURDER

Report by David Cosgrove

A MAN has appeared in court charged with the murder of a neighbour in Stourbridge.

Police named the victim as Paul Tompkins, who was found stabbed to death at his flat in Wollaston on New

Year's Day Jobless Daniel Jones, es, aged 33, is accused of killing 59-year-old Mr Tompkins in Forge Road, Wollaston.

Jones, of Forge Road, spoke only to confirm his name at Dudley Magistrates Court on

Monday.
A post-mortem has revealed that Mr Tompkins died from stab ounds

A forensic tent re-Victim Paul Tompkins mained up at the prop-erty on Monday and a

erty on Monday and a police presence was still in place.
Scores of tributes have been paid online to Mr Tompkins, who friends knew as "Tonka".
Dom Farrington posted: "God bless him. Such a gentle soul." While James Sibley Deakin wrote: "Sad world we live in."
Daz Whitehouse wrote: "When I first left home and went to live in a bedsit in Stourbridge, he lived with his mom and dad next doze the place was the same and went to the same and went to live in a bedsit in Stourbridge, he lived with his mom and dad next door. He always used to come round listen to music, tell us stories. Summer of 93 has great memories for me."

Concerned

Police were called to a flat in Forge Road just after 7pm on January 1 by a concerned neigh-

Officers forced the door open but nothing could be done to save 59-year-old Mr Tompkins who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Jones was remanded in custody for a preliminary hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court. Over the weekend residents spoke of their concern about the incident happening in their weighbourhood.

neighbourhood.

One woman, who lived nearby and did not want to named, said it was a 'huge shock'. Detectives continue to appeal for information to

help them determine the circumstance sur-rounding Mr Tompkins' death.

Detective Inspector Martin Slevin, from Force CID, urged people to help officers dis-cover the circumstances of the attack in the quiet cul-de-sac.

"We are still in the early stages of piecing to-gether exactly what happened and would ask anyone with information to come forward and

contact us," he said.

Anyone who can help the investigation is asked to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

CINDERELLA CAST WILL HAVE A BALL IN PANTO



Ugly sister Diptheria, left, played by George Clayton, Fiona Robinson as Cinderella, Rory Rollason, Buttons and Ian Thompson as Hernia

NEW twists and turns will keep audiences on their toes when the classic tale of Cinderella is told by Oldbury Repertory Players.

The ugly sisters will be battling for centre stage alongside everyone's favourite bachelor, Buttons when the pantomime is staged at The Barlow Playhouse, Langley, from Saturday to January 16.

This latest adaptation has been written by Oldbury Rep. member, Lan Thompson

Oldbury Rep member, Ian Thompson.
Fellow rep member Alan Wood said: "The story follows the traditional tale of Cinder-ella being bossed around by her step-sisters,

step-mother and ignored by her father, Baron

Hardup.
"When the king decides to throw a ball to get his son Prince Charming to wed, all the eligible girls from miles around are invited – except poor Cinders.

Buttons

But with the help from her best friend, Buttons, and a little help from her Fairy God-mothers, she hopes to get to the ball and her true love.
Matinees will take place on January 9,10

and 16, from 2.30pm, with evening perfor and 16, from 2.30pm, with evening performances at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and £11. Tickets can also be bought in person from the box office on Mondays, from 7.30pm, or by calling 0121 5522761.

Oldbury Rep has been hosting plays in different forms since 1939 and celebrated its 75th anniversary last year.

The theatre now has its own bar, rehearsal room and studio theatre, wardrobe block and

oom and studio theatre, wardrobe block and 73 seat main auditorium.

For further information on the theatre group visit www.oldburyrep.org website.

SHOOTINGS

Gun crime back and it cannot be tolerated

GUN crime is back in the West Midlands

GUN crime is Dack in the west Mildlands and cannot be tolerated, the force's incoming Chief Constable says.

Deputy Chief Constable Dave Thompson said a possible increase in the availability in ammunition could be behind a spate of incidents. Three men have been arrested differential interests and the control of the con

after a triple shooting in Handsworth which left a man seriously wounded on Sunday. Mr Thompson, who officially starts as Chief Constable next week, said: "These incidents are small in number but I wellcome the community concern because we should not tolerate any of this."

THEATRE

New group stages Hippodrome bid

A GROUP aiming to save Dudley Hip-podrome from demolition has submit-ted a last-minute rescue bid.

ted a last-minute rescue bid.
Gordon Downing, of Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, has joined a group
led by businessman Dave Mundon.
Campaigners have formed a steering
group after Dudley Council gave them
until the end of last year to put a realistic package together to revive the former theatre. Dudley Council wants to
knock down the Castle Hill landmark.

• 'Inept' — see page 9

CHARGES

Burial fees rise to meet cash savings

BURIAL fees in Dudley will rise as part of a raft of increased charges by the cash-

strapped council.

The increase will be brought in as Dudley Council continues its battle to meet savings of £20 million over the next three

years. A mong the fees to rise are the cost of Among the fees to rise are the cost of Among the fees to found on a plot which will rise from £1,935 to £2,090. Cremation costs will rise from £344 to £372.

New fee charges will also come into force for a range of leisure centre and museum services. Dudley Council officials say increases are in line with inflation.

INSIDE

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Queen honours community champions Council get



Councillor Brian Edwards

TWO community champions from our area share the same sense of pride after being named in the New Year's Honours List.

One of the local award winners is a Cradley Heath-born expert in learning disabilities, who has been handed his second helping of New Year's Honours joy – adding a CBE to the OBE he received 15 years ago.

Professor Barry Carpenter, who lives in Chaddesley Corbett and has an adult daughter with Down's syndrome, was awarded the honour for services to special educational needs. He holds honorary chairs at the Universities of Worcestershire, Limerick, Hamburg, and Flinders in Australia.

Professor Carpenter, who studied at Row-ley Regis Grammar School, said: "It's a great honour to receive this recognition. I'm over the moon - they say lightning doesn't strike twice but it has."

South Staffs Council Leader Brian Edwards

South Statis Council leader Brian Edwards has been appointed an MBE.
Councillor Edwards, of Stourton, was first elected to the authority in 1983, and has been leader for 11 years. He has been the county councillor for South Staffordshire's Kinver division for 25 years.

Councillor Edwards, 75, said: "I'm verv proud and look forward to serving the area for another few years."



Pensioner tricked out of £13,000 in roof con

an in her 90s into paying thousands of pounds for a roofing job which actually cost a fraction of the price, a court heard.

Salesman Graham Purcell claimed his roof coating was a low-cost alter-native to re-roofing, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. But he massively inflated the cost of a new roof to make his offer appear a cheaper alternative

atternative.

It was part of a con targeting elderly and vulnerable people which brought in £8 million over three years.

In one case, the crook told a vulnerable In one case, the crook told a vulnerable 91-year-old from Stourbridge she would have to pay £30,000 to re-roof her home before quoting her £17,850 for what he described as a thermal roofing paint. He then lowered the quote to £13,000 to make it look like she was getting a good deal.

Heat

He claimed the work could reduce heat loss by up to 25 per cent, make the roof maintenance free and increase the value of her property. In reality, the cost of the work done was no more than £1,000.

Tests proved the paint would actually increase maintenance costs and devalue properties The con

The cost of a new roof would have been around £11,000.

He worked a similar con on another person aged in their 90s from Dudley borough

son aged in their you from Dudiey borough.
Purcell, aged 32, a salesman at Therma
Seal UK, based in Tamworth, was given a
12-month prison sentence suspended for
two years, after being found guilty of four
counts of fraud following a trial. He must
also complete 150 hours of community ser-

vice.

The case against Purcell, of Manning Road, Droitwich, was brought by Dudley's trading standards team.

trading standards team.

Earlier this year the firm's directors
Christopher Wilkes and Alan Wilson were
jailed for five years.

Councillor Rachel Harris, who oversees

trading standards in Dudley, said: was a large scale fraud netting more than £8 million in three years involving a significant number of elderly and vulnerable customers. It left many victims out of pocket."

Tally ho! Hundreds turn out for hunt



Eager beagle — the hounds and riders gather for the annual Albrighton and Woodland hunt at Hagley Hall

MORE than 1,000 people turned out for the annual festive hunt from Hagley Hall. Around 70 riders took part in the

raditional hunt in the 350-acre grounds surrounding Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge.

Crowds welcomed the hunters on

horseback who were flanked by the hounds as they posed in front of the hall before setting off at 11am on

Boxing Day.

The hunt at Hagley took place at exactly the same time as a hunt in

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Newport, which is also organised by the Albrighton and Woodland Hunt.

Hunt.
Since fox hunting was banned in 2004, the hunters have followed trails around the grounds, where the hounds sniff out the scent without any foxes harmed.
Hunt secretary Justin Hill said: "Horses and hounds have hunted on Boxing Day for hundreds of years. Everybody is welcome and it is a great social occasion. It is part of Christmas."

Ann Thompson, from Birmingham, has been attending the hunts since the 1940s. The 77-year-old, whose granddaughter Amy Parkes whose granddaughter Amy Parkes was part of the hunt, said: "It is a British tradition. I love the animals and this is a beautiful place. A lot of people support it and I am one of them."

Huntman Daniel Honnett said:

Huntsman Daniel Hammett said: Huntsman Daniel Hammett saio:
"It is nice to see so many faces. You
get a lot of people who don't normally come during the season but
come out for the Boxing Day meet."

funding to help people find a home

MORE than 60 new homes will be built across Dudley and Stourbridge as part of a scheme to provide starter homes for those struggling to buy or rent in the

borough. Four sites for new housing estates have been revealed after the council received a grant of £625,000 towards funding the development.

The cash for the 62 starter homes

The cash for the 02 starter nomes has been given after an agreement was reached with the Government's Homes and Communities Agency.

Dudley Council is one of three authorities in the Black Country to secure cash

towards new homes.

towards new homes.

Bosses plan to build homes in Beechwood Road, Kates Hill; King William Street, Amblecote; Mere Road, Stourbridge; and Wrens Nest Road, Dudley.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe, is expected to sign off the

Discount

The homes will be for sale and offered at a 20 per cent discount to first time

at a 20 per cent discount to first time buyers under the age of 40. A report to Councillor Lowe said: "A key theme of Dudley's Council plan is to build more homes. The delivery of 62 starter homes will contribute to this. "The proposal also supports one of the council's strategic housing aims — to provide a mixed housing offer that will meet a range of housing needs and helps to address one of our key challenges, that many new households cannot afford to buy or rent a home of their own."

Bring cards to be recycled in store

TWO Sainsbury's stores in Dudley bor-

TWO Sainsbury's stores in Dudley bor-ough are offering a service to help peo-ple recycle their Christmas cards. The shops in Amblecote and Merry Hill are providing the service to sup-port the Forest Stewardship Council help protect forests. Until January 13, neip protect forests. Until January 13, customers can recycle their Christmas cards at an in-store collection point. For the second year all 'paper' wrapping can be placed in the Christmas card recy-cling collection boxes too. The initiative has been extended to include Christmas nas been extended to include Christman lights, ribbons and plastic wrappings, and customers can bring these to any Sainsbury's supermarket for recycling. Amblecote store manager Andy Beardmore said: "We've always had a brilliant response from customers in previous years"

Collapse of sewer closes busy road

A COLLAPSED sewer on the Hagley Road in Halesowen between Queens

koad in Halesowen between Queensway and Highfield Lane left the road closed. Reports were received about the col-lapse on Monday afternoon. Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We immediately put a closure in place."



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chargers are installed in the borough

ELECTRIC vehicle chargers have been installed on three Dudley borough car parks.

The council hopes to encourage the take up of ultra-low emission vehicles by installing chargers in handy posi-tions across the borough.

The new superfast charging points are part of a network of more than 300 rapid chargers available across the country.

The Dudley chargers are located on car parks on Andrew Road, Hale-sowen; Level Street, Brierley Hill; and Stafford Street, Dudley.

The charging points enable drivers to top up and be back on the road within 10 to 20 minutes of calling in. They cost £2.50 for 10 minutes and 25p per minute thereafter.

Grant

The charging points have been mostly funded by a Government grant of £112,500, a contribution of £37,500 from Charge Your Car and a £14,000 allocation from the Department for Transport's Integrated Transport

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "As a council we take sustaina-bility issues very seriously and we are confident that by offering electric car points we will encourage more people to drive electric vehicles."

Learn more about the UK's network of 'EV' charge points at the Charge Your Car website at chargeyourcar. org.uk or download the app

Legal solution for court barrier row

PLANS for a parking barrier to be put in place at the rear of Dudley Magistrates were withdrawn from a plan-ning committee meeting.

The move aims to allow the Department of Justice and Central Methodist Church to reach a legal agreement to allow access for users of the church via the court's rear access road and parking area.

Coffins would have to be carried underneath a parking barrier for funerals if plans for restrictions in Gads Lane were to go ahead as originally proposed. More than 100 parishioners signed a petition against it. Now it is hoped that the signing of the agreement will answer the objections and the application could then be determined under delegated powers.

Traffic lights for gas pipe works

DRIVERS have been warned to ex-pect delays in Old Hill with roadworks expected to last for six days from to-morrow (Friday) while National Grid

Fast electric Tributes to biker who died after crash



Robert Christopher

A MOTORCYCLIST who died after a crash in the Black Country has been named, as tributes pour in for the 'fun-loving family

Robert 'Claude' Christopher, aged 39, died after suffering a cardiac arrest at the scene of the crash in Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, on December 29 following an acci-

dent involving two cars.

Tributes have been paid to Mr Christopher, of Regis Heath Road, who was a mem-

ber of a biking group.
A close family member, who did not want to be named, said: "Robert was a great, great man, more like a brother to me than

situation for him, he turned everything into an absolute positive and always did it with a

"He lived for his family and for our bike group, Ruff Ryders. He had been a keen group, Rull Ryders. He had been a keen biker for many years and everybody in the biking community loved him, you couldn't help but not. He should be remembered as the fun loving family man he was."
Flowers have been left at the scene, with one message saying: "RIP ride free."

Tributes have also been paid on Facebook to Mr Christopher, who was also known as 'Trriple A' in the biking community.

Jonathan 'Jaytee' Thompson posted: "R.I.P Claud Robert Trriple A Christopher

R.I.P Claud Robert Priple A Christopher Gone too soon, but will see you again some day soldier."

Members of the Rowley Regis-based Evo-lution and Spitfire MCC of Birmingham have paid their respects at the scene of the tragedy.

tragedy.
Crash investigators have appealed for witnesses to the collision, which may have included another motorcyclist and pas-

Anyone with information should contact the police on 101. No-one in either of the cars was injured.

Revamp for park needs grant aid A CRADLEY park is in line for a revamp with refurbished changing rooms, floodlit games area and car

park.

Dudley Council planners approved
the plans for Homer Hill Recreation
Ground, in Homer Hill Road. However, Councillor Richard Body, says
that a funding grant of up to £500,000 will have to be secured to enable the work to be carried out.

work to be carried out.

Councillor Body, chairman of the friends of the park group, said: "We are hopeful that the grant from The Football Trust will be secured."

999 calls at more than two a minute

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service WEST Midlands Ambulance Service received more than 9,000 emergency 999 calls between Christmas Eve and Boxing Day, it has been revealed. Ambulance crews were called a total of 3,038 times on Christmas Eve, 2,939 times on Christmas Day and

2,939 times on Christmas Day and 3,280 times on Boxing Day during a busy festive period. That works out to be more than two calls per minute. Among the incidents attended by ambulance crews was a flat fire in Will

lenhall when a woman was treated for the effects of serious smoke inhalation and a crash in Longbridge

Singers donate £11k to hospice

CHORAL singers have raised £11,000 to help Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

Got 2 Sing, led by Beth Dunn, helped to raise the roof at Merry Hill shopping centre to generate £519 towards the total.

The rest of the money has been raised through fundraising events held throughout the year.
he choir has more than 60 members from Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Beweley and Worcester.

Brewery is to create Yeltz match day beer

HALESOWEN Town Football Club has joined forces with a nearby brew-ery to supply drinks to supporters on match days.

The Yeltz has stuck a partnership with the Fixed Wheel Brewery in

Blackheath.

Brewers are hoping to create a beer specially for the club's fans in the com-

ing weeks.

The club, based at The Grove, in Old Hawne Lane, will be stocking the brewery's Chain Reaction Pale Ale.

TV comic has pub gig

COMEDIAN Gary Delaney from TV's Mock the Week, will be in Stourbridge tomorrow (Friday).

Delaney, who is married to fellow comic Sarah Millican, will be perform-ing at Kate Fitzgeralds, in Enville Street, Wollaston, at 8pm. Tickets cost £10. For details call (01384) 374410.

New carnival boss as the fundraising begins

launched to boost the revived Halesowen Carnival - after its founder revealed plans to step down from

Hundreds of people turned out for the first carnival in the town for around three

decades in the summer.

Campaigner Simon Walker had helped re-establish the event to bring crowds flooding back into the town. But now Mr Walker has decided to step aside as chairman to allow other committee members to take the helm ready for this summer's event.

summer's event.

He will be given the honorary title of president and will be succeeded by current vice chairman, Councillor Stuart Henley.

Two new appointments have also been made to strengthen the committee. Kevin Adams

has joined as entertainment officer and Chris Milton in the role of volunteer liaison officer. Secretary Karen Dunham also becomes vice chairman.

Planning for the event on Saturday, July 2,

is now under way.

Mr Walker said he was standing down as chairman because he had succeeded in what he intended to do – to relaunch the carnival after almost 30 years.

Achieved

Achieved

He said: "I wanted to recreate the carnival

– the people's carnival – and that has been
achieved. It was a success and there is room for
building on that and extending it.

"It was hard work and the problem we had
was that nobody believed it would happen, but
it did. Stuart, Karen and I were adamant it
would go ahead, even if we'd have had to finance it ourselves."

After the two Halesowen community forums
refused funding, the committee turned to the

refused funding, the committee turned to the National Lottery and was awarded £10,000 to stage the event

stage the event. The carnvial was further threatened when Dudley Council decided it could not be staged at Huntingtree Park and the venue was switched to Highfields Park with just a month's notice. Councillor Henley said: "Simon has decided to step down as chairman now he has achieved his goal and kept his promise to the local people of Halesowen. "Halesowen Carnival committee would like to publicly thank Mr Simon Walker for all his hard work."

Motorcycle convoy for hospital

AROUND 200 bikers helped deliv-AROUND 200 bikers helped deliver hundreds of gifts and supplies to support seriously ill children and their families have now handed over almost £750 to charity.

Streetbike in Halesowen col-

lected toys and presents for youngsters at Birmingham Chil-dren's Hospital throughout De-

This included tea, coffee and even power tools to support the self-funded children and family accommodation unit at the hospi-

accommodation unit at the hospital, Ronald McDonald House.

A cheque for £744 was presented to the hospital following the arrival of a convoy including a mini bus and two vans filled with gifts. Gary Marshall, owner of Streetbike, said: "Streetbike is used as a drop-off point throughout December and anyone can bring presents for the children. We also collect items to keep the home running, even power tools."

Bikers who joined the hospital convoy, bringing gifts and a financial donation to support family accommodation A convoy of more than 200 bik-A convoy or more than 200 bik-ers left Streetbike on Dudley Road for the heart of Birmingham to of-ficially hand over the donations. The event has been running for five years and the bikers have also

or years and the blers have also supported Russells Hall Hospital.

Mr Marshall added: "There must've been up to a thousand items handed over and it's all thanks to John Stone, who was the first person to instigate the idea four years ago."

replace gas pipes. Temporary traffic lights will be on Reddal Hill Road.

IVE NAPPY! Slimming World

MONDAY

Halesowen

Halesbury School Feldon Lane 5.30pm and 7.30pm Tel Dawn: 07859 010175



TUESDAY

New Group Cradlev

Cradley Sports & Social Club Colley Lane from 5th January 7.30pm Tel: Stacey: 07411 486694

Halesowen

Halesbury School Feldon Lane 7.00pm Tel Dawm: 07859 010175

WEDNESDAY

NEW GROUP Cradley

Wilson Hall, Cradley Labour Club, Colley Gate From 6th January 2016, 5.30pm & 7.30 pm

Tel Stacey: 07411 486694

THURSDAY

Cradley

Netherend Centre Mogul Lane 5.15pm and 7.15pm Tel Amanda: 07862 274058

SATURDAY

Cradley

Netherend Centre Mogul Lane 9am and 10.30am

Tel Amanda: 07862 274058







HERE it is. Another bright, shiny and totally unspoiled New Year. So who's going to muck it up, then? Prediction

– having pledged untold millions for flood defences, David

Cameron landed with the worst drought since 1976.

HOW many of the media organisations condemning Oliver Letwin for his views on black people in the 1985 riots have taken a long, hard look into their own archives? Letwin's assumptions and language may seem shocking today but they were common enough 30 years ago. A trawl through the 1985 output of newspapers, radio and TV might produce a crop of red faces.

AFTER sticking faithfully with BBC1 through three episodes of And Then There Were None, the same old question about Agatha Christie's plots won't go away. How on earth did we make a national treasure out of a woman who peddled such implausible tosh?



THE New Year kicked off with a dark warning that "dozens of moderate Labour MPs" are prepared to guit Parliament prepared to quit Parliament rather than serve under Jeremy Corbyn? Oh, yeah? And do what? There are few jobs that pay £60,000 a year plus expenses, particularly if your only qualification is as a party activist and bag-carrier. If 50 Labour MPs quit 00 Corbyn-loval candidates would instantiv

1,000 Corbyn-loyal candidates would instantly step forward. The truth, beyond the worst imaginings of many Labour politicians this time last year, is that Corbyn won the party leadership but is not making a

WE live in the age of the drone. These flying machines fitted with video cameras bring us unrivalled coverage of everything from gardening programmes to the TV news and are superb at capturing the extent of the floods. For a few quid, producers now have access to camera-angles that used to involve booking a helicopter and film crew for a whole day at ruinous expense. Good news for the programme makers and the TV viewers. Bad news, presumably, for the helicopter industry.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Caution as £30m retail park is back on cards

A £30 million masterplan for a retail park in Oldbury, which was first proposed almost two decades ago, is being revived. Shops and a restaurant will be built on the 38-acre

site known as The Junction on the former Hunts Foundry in Oldbury town centre, under the plans.

But councillors remain cautious about the development following the latest twist in a long-running saga.

By Richard Guttridge

(with) probably three different owners and 10 different schemes. Whatever the scheme, there needs to

be some sort of timescale to start the work. Otherwise what happens is they try to put a package together, then try to sell it on and then someone thinks of a differ-

ent scheme.
"We are here to help and

anything will be welcome after all these years. But they need to be serious proposals."

The long-awaited develop-

centre in November 2004. In 2007, 2009 and 2011, Sandwell Council granted approval to amendments.

A retail park was first mooted for the site near Oldbury Ringway 18 years ago with plans coming and going in various guises ever since. The site, off West Bromwich Street, has long been empty after buildings were flattened near to Sandwell and Dudley railway station.

A screening opinion - an A screening opinion - an application asking whether or not the development should be subject to environmental impact assessment - has been sent to Sandwell Council with a full showing capitation due to planning application due to follow within weeks.

Timescale

The long-awaited development was due to transform the town with new shops and restaurants and create more than 1,000 jobs.

It is understood the site is now owned by Hammerson, a firm behind many major retail developments in the country including Birming-ham's Bullring centre.

Permission was initially granted for the shopping centre in November 2004. In 2007, 2009 and 2011. Ward councillor Mahboob Hussian said any developer promising to deliver the retail park must set out a timescale for when it will be delivered.

delivered.

He said: "I am aware plans have been submitted for the retail park again. I understand it's a different type of scheme and will

bring in some large retail development."

He added: "This has been going on for 18 years

Hairdresser finally cuts ties



Ann Richards retiring after 30 years at her salon Just Curls

A HAIRDRESSER has retired after more than 30 years in the business.

years in the business.

Ann Richards, aged 69, from Quinton, was retiring on New Year's Eve. She has owned her shop 'Just Curls' in Bearwood for over three decades and will be handing the shop over to employee Stephanie Barnbrook.

Ann said her job had

Ann said her Job nate Job aben 'absolutely wonderful', adding: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. "It is the only thing I really wanted to do from the age of seven. I am almost 70 now. I thought it was time for come from the series of for some 'me' time and for some rest."

Stephanie, 42, will be taking over the shop after working for Ann for more than 25 years.

than 25 years.

Ann wanted to go to hair-dressing college once she left school but her parents could not afford the fees. So she began working at Mitchell and Butlers brewer in smethwick aged 15, but continued her hairdressing at home. She got a break aged 17, when a Birmingham salon, called Windsors, offered her a job and to train offered her a job and to train

Ann's granddaughter Ellis is a hairdresser and grandson Connor a barber.

Splash out on lessons learning to swim

LEARNER swimmers are set to benefit from improved swimming provision, thanks to the introduction of a pio-

to the introduction of a pioneering new academy.
Sandwell Leisure Trust will work in partnership with Walsall-based STA, to launch the new academy model at its six pools across the borough, including in Tipton and Wednesbury.
The SLT Swim Academy programme aims to raise standards of swim teaching across the area by introduc-

standards of swim teaching across the area by introducing a single teaching system and a standardised programme for lessons.

The academy officially launched in November to coincide with the opening of the new Wednesbury Leisure Centre

Now bosses have revealed the programme will be rolled out to the Leisure

Trust's other five sites as the new swimming term gets under way. Lisa Smith, STA's sen-ior account manager, said: "The successes of our other academies speak for them-

academies speak for themselves so we are very excited to launch this brand new programme in Sandwell.
"Learning to swim is a vital life skill that all children should be given the opportunity to learn."
The SLT Swim Academy will operate at Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Langley and Smethwick swimming centres, Portway Lifestyle centres, Portway Lifestyle Centre, Tipton Leisure Cen-tre and Wednesbury Leisure Centre.

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railway station over a three-month period.

Between June 28 to September 19 this year 11,985 trains were planned to arrive at Sandwell and Dudley station on Bromford Lane station but 7,545 of those arrived one minute or more late – equivalent

orampton, san that they are constantly working alongside operators to improve punctuality.

"Overall 83.6 per cent of trains arrive at Sandwell and Dudley on time, using the industry and European-wide recognised Public Performance Measure – PPM" he said.

Reliability

to 63 per cent. Of those, 148 were cancelled all together.

o 63 per cent. Of those, 148 were cancelled all together. The most delayed service at the station was the Virgin Trains Edinburgh to London Euston service on the June 11 – delayed for 151 minutes – after a man was killed after being struck on the track near Lockerbie in Scotland. Earlier this year Network Rail said that the number of trains that arrive on time had risen dramatically since they took over the running of Britain's railways in October 2002. Network Rail spokesman, Jon Crampton, said that they are constantly working alongside operators to **Rare American** brooch to be sold at auction

AN historic brooch with links to the American Civil War is being sold at an auction of antique and modern jewel-

The sale takes place at Fellows in Birmingham on January 14 and one of the star lots is an American mid-19th century 18ct gold aquamarine

The item of jewellery was gifted by American Civil War General Robert Stuart to his wife, Ellen, and is ex-

Stuart to his wife, Ellen, and is expected to go under the hammer for between £1,200 and £1,800.

The piece features a large oval-shape aquamarine stone set in an 18ct gold scrolling border. There is a personal engraving to the reverse which reads, "To Ellen Stuart, from General Robert Stuart". Robert Stuart fought in various battles for the Union army, being commended for gallantry, but he drowned at the Battle of Cedar Creek in July 1863.

Mini Cooper smashes into front of house



The scene of the accident at Windmill Hill with damaged frontage and the overturned Mini Cooper

A MAN had a lucky escape after a car smashed into his house and a neigh-bouring shop front before coming to rest on its side.

Reliability

"Network Rail is not complacent and constantly works with train operators to improve punctuality and reliability to provide passengers with the best possible level of service." PPM measures the performance of individual passenger trains against their timetable as agreed between the operator and Network Rail at 10pm the night before.

Richard Stanton, Communications Manager at Virgin Trains, said: "The majority of delays to Virgin Trains' services on the West Coast Mainline are caused by issues that are the responsibility of Network Rail." The Mini Cooper slammed through netal railings hitting the front room of the house in Cradley on New Year's

A man inside had been sat at his computer in the front window just minutes before the accident.

Debris and twisted metal railings

were scattered across Windmill Hill, in Colley Gate, following the crash, next door to signage premises Trico.

Residents say that the car left the road hit the metal railings, bounced off one property and flipped onto its side. It happened just before 6am, doors away from the Little Chop House pub.

A man in the car had scrambled out of the wreckage by the time emergency services arrived

The house had part of its front win

dow and bricks underneath smashed in. The car slammed into the front door and window of Trico but fire crews believed there to be no major structural damage as a result.

A member of staff from Trico was present at the scene but did not want to comment.

The resident was able to remain living at the property following the aftermath of the accident. The driver was given first aid at the scene.

Panto musical 5 is a Beauty at 🛓 the civic hall

preferring that Musical Theatre Company performs its latest production.

Rehearsals are well underway for the company's own rendition of Beauty and the Beast, which run at Brierley Hill Civic Hall from Saturder.

Emma Worrall has been chosen Fining worthin has been chosen for the lead role of Beauty with Karl Wunderlich in a furry costume to play the Beast, who is actually an enchanted prince.

The part of Countess Cruella went to Rebecca Thorne while Jemma Hughes plays the Rose Fairy. Tom Robinson and Chris Drew have been cast in the roles of Beauty's wicked

Matinees

Further parts include Gregory Gobsmacked, played by Krystian Whorton, Lucy Lipstick by Sylvia Hickling and Jo Jarrod by James Lanley, with Granny played by Amy Pearson.

Evening performances will run on January 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16, from 7.15pm. Matinees will take place at 2.15pm on January 9, 10 and 16.

Ticket cost £10 with reduced prices available for group bookings and for families.

To book tickets call the box office on 0845 6588095 or visit the www.bhmtc. co.uk website

Library to host talk on town war history

STOURBRIDGE during the First World War will be the subject of a lo-cal history talk on February 26. Kenneth Wright will give the pres-

entation at Stourbridge Library at 2.30pm.

2.30pm.

The talk will take place in the Amblecote Room and admission is £3.

Call (01384) 812945 for further in-

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IN MY VIEW

All depends on just how police will spend cash

DAVID Jamieson, the police and crime commissioner for the West Midlands. raises an interesting debate when he pro-poses a £5-a-year rise in what the force charges the average household for its

He savs without the increase the force will be forced to save £3.3 million a year, and when towns the size of Dudley are finding themselves without a police sta-tion, it does seem that something needs to be done.

to be done.

However, for all the protests about savage cuts, it is worth noting that real-terms police spending – allowing for inflation – is still E1 billion a year higher than it was at the turn of the Millennium. When, if my memory serves me rightly, we still had police stations.

police stations.

So is the increase really justified? I suspect most people will take the view that it depends how the money is spent. If it means halting the closure of police stations in some of our biggest and busiest towns, then I imagine most people would gladly stump up.

However, if the money is going to be spent on more speed cameras, more spent on more speed cameras, more

However, if the money is going to be spent on more speed cameras, more "safety partnerships", more political correctness, more prosecutions for so-called "hate crimes" which just a few years ago would have been considered little more than bad manners, then the public will probably be more sceptical.

STAYING with policing, few people will argue with the Government's plans to increase the penalties for drivers caught using their mobile phones.

Alarmingly, a survey in the West Mercia force area revealed that nearly four in 10 motorists admitted checking their phones

while driving, with one in 10 admitting to searching the internet.

Clearly this is unacceptable and dangerous. However, the trade-off for stiffer

gerous. However, the trade-off of similar penalties must surely be a degree of dis-cretion in the enforcement of the rules. Motorists who brazenly drive around with the phones glued to their ear, leaving a trail of chaos behind, are clearly a men-ace, and deserve little sympathy if they get the book thrown at them. The same applies to those who send text messages

on the move.

However, letting your boss know you are going to be late when you are sat in stationary traffic with the handbrake firmly on and the gearbox in neutral? That cannot possibly pose a risk to anybody. Yet under the present laws it still constitutes an offence if the keys are in the ignitives and the constitution of the constit

tion and the engine is running.

Interestingly, this presents an interesting legal question. Many modern cars have keyless ignition, and a device which cuts the engine off the moment the car grinds to a standstill. So if you send a text message while stationary in traffic, with the engine off and the keys firmly in your pocket, does that constitute an offence?







Victim Richard Deakin



Scene of the 2010 murder in Meadway Street, Chasetown

Heartbroken mother makes plea to hitmen

Carol Deakin is still seeking answers over the death of her son five years ago. PETER MADELEY takes up the story

"I BELIEVE justice will come. The man who paid to have my son killed is still out there. Eventually the truth will come out.

So says Carol Deakin, the mother of businessman Richard Deakin who was shot to death as he lay in bed at his family home in Chasetown some five and a

half years ago.
For Carol and the rest of his heartbroken family, time has not proved to be a great

heater.

Three years ago hired gun David Harrison was jailed for 37 years for carrying out the murder, while getaway driver Darryl Dickens was sent down for 30 years.

Police have always believed the pair were right to any cut the believed the pair were

paid to carry out the hit – although the identity of those behind the crime has never been ascertained.

Accused

Tipton drug kingpin John Anslow – currently serving 29 years for drug dealing and escaping from a prison van before fleeing the country – was accused of setting up the killing, but was found not guilty after a trial last year.

Following Anslow's acquittal police said ronowing Ansiow's acquittan poince said they were not pursuing anyone else in connec-tion with the case, but Carol says the thought of someone getting away with murder has left her unable to rest.

It has also filled her with a steely determina-

tion to make sure that no one goes unpunished for the act which she says has destroyed her

life.

Carol is now appealing to the men convicted of killing her son to reveal who paid them to

do it.
"I want David Harrison to stand up and be a man and say who paid him to kill my son," said Carol, aged 54, of Cheslyn Hay.



Richard's mother Carol, of Cheslyn Hay, has made the appeal to the hitmen

FRFF

"He has got nothing to lose. Harrison will rie nas got notning to lose. Harrison will probably never get out of prison. But he knows who gave the orders. He could give me some peace of mind by telling the police who paid him.

"I firmly believe there is still someone out."

there who has got away with murder. Until that person is made to pay for what they have done there won't be anything even close to sense of closure for any of us in Richard's

"I still can't believe it has happened. We

I still can't believe it has nappened. We were a very close family.

"Richard was a hardworking man who didn't get into any trouble. He was not involved in drug dealing. He was a good man who was devoted to his family. My son was killed for nothing. He was stolen from us. I'd give anything to have him back."

Harrison entered Mr Deakin's Meadway Harrison entered Mr Deakin's Meadway Street home on the morning of July 5, 2010, and carried out the execution using a sawn-off shotgun, before calmly leaving the house and being driven away by Dickens. They had waited for Mr Deakin's fiancée,

Megan, to leave the house with the couple's two young daughters before making their

Harrison and Dickens both from Bilston were jailed following a trial in 2013. Harrison, who had previous convictions for firearms offences, has consistently denied having anything to do with the murder.

thing to do with the murder.
"For me a big part of this is to get justice for Richard's daughters," Carol added.
"I want them to know that the person who ordered their dad to be killed is locked up. The police may have closed the case but as far as I

up."
Mr Deakin's daughters Elle and Jessica are

now aged nine and seven respectively.

Carol said they both regularly talk about their loving father, particularly Elle, who she says 'remembers everything' about the day of his tragic death.

"She was four at the time, old enough to understand what was happening," Carol said. "I asked her what she wanted for Christ-mas and she said a locket with a picture of her

daddy in it.

"It's heartbreaking. I've got a lock of his hair so I'm going to put that in the locket for her with a picture.

"She's got all of his expressions. Her dad was quite shy and she's got his personality.

"Jess is Richard's double. How can you explain to children so young about something so terrible? daddy in it.

"It is tragic that Megan has been left to bring up two such beautiful children without Richard."

Terrible

"Each and every day is so hard, but Christ-mas brings back so many memories.
"Every Christmas Eve he would come around and stay until the new year. It is just not the same anymore. It's the worst time of year for me.

year for me.

"I live my life day by day and he never leaves
my head," added heartbroken Carol.

"Every Sunday I got to bed at night and I'm
filled with sadness.

"All I can think about is Richard. He was

killed on a Monday, so I always have a terrible feeling on Sundays because I'm thinking back to the day when it happened. "I hate Mondays to this day. He never leaves

Carol says she has 'total belief' that who-ever ordered her son's murder will one day be

ever ordered her some small caught.

"I believe in karma," she added.

"Whoever paid them (Harrison and Dickens) to do this cowardly act will have it in their minds every day. One day justice will catch up

on them.
"I will keep on fighting until that person is sent to prison."



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I AM writing on behalf of the 33 steelworkers who were made redundant from the Ductile Stourbridge Cold Mills, Willenhall,

Now here's a company which for 90-odd years had processed quality steel strip for the manufacturing industry and continued

the manufacturing industry and continued to make a profit.

Then along came Caparo who bought us and decided in their great wisdom and judgement to amalgamate us with a com-pany in West Bromwich, which will remain

nameless, who in turn slowly but surely began to strip us of all our assets and infrastructure — leaving us like sitting ducks if a situation came along.

Well thanks Caparo and nameless company for wiping 105 years of steel-making from the face of the earth.

Generations of steelworkers — fathers.

ons, brothers, sisters — gone.
DISGRUNTLED STEELWORKER Name and address supplied

Thatcher sale sparks questions

I WATCHED the BBC News item concerning an auction of Mrs Thatcher's private belongings. I noted, however that one of the most sought-after items was her dispatch box. This item has dispatch box. This item has a clearly embossed symbol 'E II R' on the front. Dispatch boxes are items commonly used for Government purposes. As far as I am aware, all items marked or embossed with the royal symbol 'E II R' are the property of The Crown and belong to the state.

I cannot recall any other

I cannot recall any other instances of such items being sold at private auc-tion. If my interpretations are correct, serious ques-tions must be raised about Thatcher's claim to own-Thatcher's claim to own-ership and how it came to be sold in a private auc-tion decades after she had left office? Furthermore, shouldn't the money raised from the sale of that item then go to the Treasury? If so, how strange it is that Os-borne and Cameron haven't noticed the money lost in such a high-profile sale? M CLIFF

Wall Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Concern at future of Hippodrome site I REMEMBER the happy times I spent at Dudley hippodrome. It served the community well – schools, arouts girl guides and other Hippodrome are thirting.

scouts, girl guides and other

scouts, gri guides and other groups would organise trips. The town was always lively but sadly has gone into decline. The good news is the zoo is undergoing a revival, also the added at-traction of the Black Coun-try Living Museum and the try Living Museum and the proposed new Metro line yet the Hippodrome is being ignored. I doubt if Dudley will ever again see and hear the excited cries of groups of children leaving the zoo and Hippodrome on their coach

trips.
The Dudley councillors' move to flatten the Hippodrome is a crime against the town and the people who

Hippodrome are thriving. Groups still flock there in-cluding elderly people. My main concern, there may be a more sinister move for flattening the Hippodrome, turning it into an open spa-cet hat could be built on at a later date. It would be ripe

later date. It would be ripe for the picking.

Dudley Council has pledged to help find some-where to build the new mosque. The people of Dud-ley are entitled to know the reason for flattening an iconic building that has brought so much pleasure and can continue to do so.

H ROPER

THERE are lots of theories being put forward to the reasons why the heavy

the reasons why the heavy rainfall is not draining away — house building on flood plains and farmers not playing their part by stopping the excess water just running off their fields. Some years ago, I got into trouble by blaming the farmers, so I will just let them stew over the thought that heavy machinery compacts the subsoils.

soils.
So let us have a shot at So let us have a shot at the people who control the council's purse-strings. Years ago it was a common site to see gully emptiers going round and cleaning out the drains. What has happened to them? This was highlighted on a news bulletin when a

on a news bulletin when a man using a hook, pulled up a cover from a drain, and the floodwater just started to swirl away into the hole! PCOLE

Kingswinford

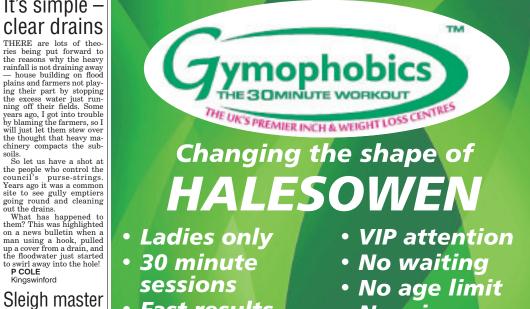
Sleigh master savs thanks

THE Kingswinford & Stour-bridge Lions Club would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who gave so generously during our an-

To all of the grown-ups and children, who braved the wet weather to meet

the wet weather to meet Santa we hope you had a very Happy Christmas. During our travels Santa and his sleigh collected £8,485 which will be dis-tributed by the club to nominated charities at a presentation evening at the Stourbridge Institute and Social Club on January 25. Social Club on January 25. STEVE RICE

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Speed tables will go as bosses rethink road safety measures

where a great-grandfather was knocked down are to be ripped out after complaints that they have no effect.

Sandwell Council has gone back to the drawing board over Barrs Road in Cradley Heath after the failure of road calming measures

ch.

road — were added in a bid to slow down drivers but they will now be removed.

The measures were brought in a bid to improve safety along the road where there has been a number of accidents.

In 2013 85-year-old retired brick-layer Bernard Betts, of Cradley Heath, died after being knocked down.

But people living by the road say the speed tables had made little difference and that the noise of vehicles going over them kept them awake at night.

A petition was launched and the call which were only completed in March. Speed tables - raised sections of the road

Fund set up for father's 'best send-off'

A FUNDRAISING page has been set up by the family of Brierley Hill crash victim Karl Green, so they can give him 'the best send-off possible'. Father-of-one Karl, aged 34, was killed alongside 28-year-old Andrew Wheeler when the blue Citroen ZX they were travelling in hit a wall on Brettell Lane at around 12.05am on Christmas Eve.

Brettell Lane at around 12.05am on Christmas Eve.

Mr Green has been described as a 'free-spirited cheeky lad who could put a smile on anybody's face' by his brother Adam.

brother Adam.

Adam has now set up a GoFundMe page in memory of his brother.

Adam said: "He was mischievous but loved by everyone who knew him. He really did have a heart of gold.

"We are asking for anyone who knew him or the family for any donations possible to help to give him the best send-off as possible."

Anyone wishing to help the family

Anyone wishing to help the family reach their £2,000 target can do so at www.go fundme.com/bjgd9qns

Special train on landmark viaduct



Rare sight — the first passenger train in more than 50 years travels on the Stambermill Viaduct in Stourbridge

RAIL enthusiasts were treated to a trip train journey for around 450 pas-ride on the first passenger train to cross Stambermill Viaduct in Stour-bridge in more than 50 years. The special service started at Bris-

Originally built in 1850, the via-duct carried the new railway between Stourbridge and Walsall across the River Stour. It still regularly sees freight trains cross several times a week via the Round Oak Steel Terminal at Brierley Hill.

But on Saturday, due to popular demand, railway tour company Path-finders put on a one-off 12-hour round

The special service started at Bristol Parkway at 7am, heading through Cheltenham, Worcester, the Black Country, Birmingham New Street, Oxford and back to Bristol for 7pm.

Richard Davies, Pathfinders administrator, said: "We've organised tours and trips for over 40 years, but for this trip we really wanted to put on a show and treat railway enthusiasts who were looking forward to going over the Stambermill Viaduct. It is not a passenger line as such, even though it is still used for freight steel trains.

"It was quite a day with everyone enjoying themselves and something not many people can say they've done. Hopefully in the future it's something we can definitely look to do again.

Railway worker and enthusiast Andrew Cope, aged 60 from Stourbridge, watched the train pass over the viaduct. He said: "It was really great to see and something I'd love to become more of a regular feature."

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Secret site is part of a £100m deal

A MYSTERY site in Oldbury is being targeted by a pair of major development companies in a £100 million deal.

It is expected to be the site of an industrial or warehouse building but the companies say the site's location is 'confidential' while planning permission is sought

It would be part of a joint develop-ment deal between Stoford Develop-ments and Liberty Property Trust, involving building more than a million sq ft of space at sites in Oldbury, Manchester, Worcester and Widnes. When let out, the developments are

expected to be worth around £100m.

The agreement between Stoford and Liberty is for eight industrial or warehouse buildings, across the four sites. The buildings will range in size from 40,000 sq ft to 200,000 sq ft.

Partnership

Work is scheduled to begin on two schemes early this year, at Worcester Six and Irlam, Manchester. Schemes at Widnes and at the Oldbury site will follow upon receipt of planning permission anticipated later in the year.

Dan Gallagher, joint managing di-rector of Birmingham-based Stoford, said: "This is an extension of our ex-isting partnership with Liberty, with whom we are already working at Lib-erty Park, Lichfield."

Thought that counts for Merry Hill shoppers

NEARLY 15,000 shoppers said they would return unwanted Christmas gifts to Merry Hill's shops on the day known as Take Back Tuesday.

known as Take Back Tuesday.

December 29 was billed as the day
that most people in receipt of an unwanted Christmas present will return
them for a refund or exchange.

The shopping centre ran a poll on
social media platform Twitter asking

their followers whether they were returning items to the centre

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A petition was launched and the call for change grew so loud that highways bosses at the council have made the decision to start again.

The road was also narrowed and junctions extended in an effort to improve visibility and these changes will receipt in place.

Signs

flashing signs that make drivers aware there is a school nearby and warning them to drive at 20mph during school times, plus red warning markings on

times, plus red warning markings on the road.

Mother-of-two Anna Cooksey, 35, who lives on Barrs Road, said the speed tables were a waste of taxpayers' money. Her car was written off after being hit by a vehicle after speed-calming measures were introduced.

She said: "They should have listened to residents in the first place. We need a crossing where people can press a button and the traffic comes to a standstill."

Highways bosses are to put in place

remain in place

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Council branded 'inept' over Hippodrome saga

'inept' emerged bosses do not know how much a plan to demolish Dudley Hippodrome and replace it with a landscaped public space will cost.

West Midlands Euro MP and Dudley councillor Bill Etheridge says he has been informed that artist's impressions were only 'an initial design' and the scheme had not yet been priced. The council is keen to remove the

historic building 'at the earliest oppor-tunity'. But a period of consultation over the future of the Hippodrome is ongoing with the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group still hopeful they

can save the venue.

UKIP's Councillor Etheridge has criticised the authority and said tax-payers in the borough cannot know whether they are getting a good deal if they don't know how much it will cost to knock down the building.

Millions

He also joined critics of plan to cre-

He also joined critics of plan to create an open public space on the site of the former theatre, saying it was not wanted in the town.

But council chiefs hit back saying it would make 'absolutely no sense' to spend money when the consultation period was still ongoing.

Councillor Etheridge said: "To plough ahead with a decision to demolish the building when proper costings have not been done is, quite frankly, inept.

"Repeatedly the taxpayers of Dudley Repeatedly the taxpayers of Dudley have been told there is no money to renovate the theatre and bring it back into use. Here we are with a scheme, that given the cost of the recent upgrade to Coronation Gardens, could



Dudley Hippodrome, on Castle Hill, was once the town's premier venue

"The demolition costs are huge, now space that nobody wants or sees a need for."

for."

The MEP added: "Dudley ratepayers deserve value for money. They are not going to get that when the council pursue schemes where money is obviously no object."

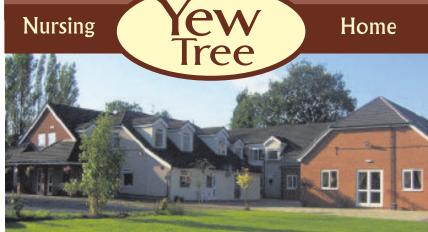
Dudley Council's regeneration boss Khurshid Ahmed said: "The images that went to cabinet were for illustrative purposes. Given that we have already made a very clear commitment

to speaking to local people in a con-sultation exercise around the future of this important area, if we demulish this dilapidated building, then it would make absolutely no sense to spend money and pre-empt the outcome of that consultation exercise."

Dudley Council has expressed the view that groups have had long enough







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Royal chat about Dudley as councillor gets MBE



Pride and pageantry — Councillor Mrs Lynn Boleyn and son Ben pose with the Beefeaters at Buckingham Palace

councillor has been recognised at the highest level.

Lynn Boleyn, councillor for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, was presented with an MBE by Prince Charles to mark her public service.

Mrs Boleyn, who attended Buckingham Palace with her son Ben and neather. Andy Kyriskou was given her

ingham Palace with her son Ben and partner, Andy Kyriakou, was given her medal for services to Wall Heath. She said: "I am extremely proud and honoured to have been awarded the MBE. It was an honour to meet Prince Charles.

"He thanked me for the work I had

THE community work of a councillor has been recognised at the highest level.

Lynn Boleyn, councillor for Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, was presented with an MBE by Prince Charles to mark her mylic service (Charles to mark her mylic service (Charles to mark her mylic service).

was pleased to near it was."
Mrs Boleyn spearheaded a campaign
to keep Maidensbridge Primary School
open in 2005 and has been a governor
of the school for 14 years. She helped
raise £1.2 million for pitches and changing rooms as charity trustee of Kewford Eagles Football Club.

She was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2012 and was nominated for the MBE by her son.



Prince Charles presents the medal





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More than 430 knives seized from people searched at courts

entering courts in the Black Country and Staffordshire during the past two years, new figures reveal.

The majority of the blades were seized at Wolverhampton magistrates' and crown courts, the HM Courts and Tribunals Service sta-

Training to

foster carers

Security staff seized replica firearms, dozens of tools, alcohol and bottles of perfume.

Of the 437 total, security staff in Wolverhampton took 328 knives from people going through the doors of the city's two courts between November 2013 and October this year.

Fifty one were confiscated at Walsall Magistrates' Court, 28 at Stafford Crown Court, 18 at Dudley Magistrates' Court and 12 at Warley Magistrates' Court. **Council give** training to

foster carers MORE than 180 foster carers have benefited from a scheme giving them training on challenging child behav-

Dudley Council has offered the KEEP training programme for the past six years. The positive parenting programme is designed to improve carers skills and resilience while pro-

carers skills and resilience while promoting the healthy development of looked-after children.

Since its introduction, 185 foster carers have graduated from one of three KEEP programmes based on the age of the child and take up to 20 weeks to complete.

Children's services boss Councillor Ian Cooper said: "We really value our foster carers and see the importance in giving them all the training and support they need to be fantastic carers. Different placements offer different challenges. Our aim is to equip every carer with the skills they need."

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/fostering

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/fostering or call (01384) 815833 for details.

Destroyed

The knives can be passed on to police and destroyed. Some may be re-

turned if owners make a request in writing but only after strict checks. Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris campaigned for tougher sentencing after the death of 16-year-old Christina Edkins, who was stabbed on a bus in Birmingham while on her control account of the control of the co way to Leasowes High School in Hale-

way to Leasowes High School in Halesowen in 2013.

The MP welcomed the action to confiscate knives.
He said: "These figures show that a substantial number of knives have been taken off our streets through seizures in our local courts.

"It is important that these weapons are seized and destroyed, so that our streets are a safer place."

A HM Courts & Tribunals Service spokesman said it has a robust se-

spokesman said it has a robust security and safety system to protect all court users and the judiciary and 'these figures show it is working'.

s Victorian Bakers at museum



Bake to the future — the Victorian Bakers team have filmed at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley

A NEW TV series on the history of baking, hosted by Annie Gray and Alex Langlands, has been filmed at The Black Country Living Museum.

The three-part series Victorian Bakers started earlier this week, with the first episode shown on Tuesday on BBC2 and repeated this Saturday evening.

The second episode, going out next week, was filmed at the museum and features the rear of a bakery that once stood on Birmingham New Road.

The series sees four modern bakers

Leaving behind modern tools, bakers will experience three different worlds of Victorian baking — a rural bakery with close ties to agriculture; the sweat and toil of an urban bakery; and a high-class city confectioner— using only tools and ingredients avail-able at that time.

Aman Garcha, a press assistant at the BBC, said: "The episode at the

museum tells a crucial story about the history of baking. The bakery which was used was rescued by the Black Country Living Museum from the rear of the shop that still stands on the New Birmingham Road.

"The bakery includes two direct coal-fired ovens and the trow in which the dough would be mixed by hand."

Food historian Annie Gray and ar chaeologist Alex Langlands, from TV's Victorian Farm and Time Team, will join the bakers to tell the story of our daily bread.

English wine sales a boost at vineyard

ENGLISH wine is flying off the shelves at a vineyard near Stour-bridge. Ben Godbehere from Halfpenbridge. Bet Schotcheler from Irahen-ny Green Vineyard, Bobbington, said international awards for some its best sellers had seen a surge in customers clamouring for home grown wine.

Halfpenny Green has notched a number of international awards over the last year and bBest-sellers have include its dry whites Mercia 2014 and Tom Hill 2014, with the Long Acre 2014 now being stocked by Marks & Spencer stores Marks & Spencer stores

Just 30 per cent of all wines sold at the vineyard are reds but Mr God-behere said their sales has also increased rapidly during the months of November and December.

He added that customers tended to opt for red wines during the colder months with its Penny Red, selling particularly well.

Mr Godbehere said a recent shop expansion had seen its general sales increase over the past few months, with wine at the forefront although food products are also sold.

Expansion has included an addi-

tional two floors including a wine loft where customers can take part in tasting sessions. The vineyard also has a popular cafe.

Staff show generosity in annual gift appeal

COUNCIL staff in Dudley helped an annual Operation Santa campaign to reach a record number of donated Christmas gifts.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service received 13,542 items including children's clothing, school materials, toiletries, crafts, books, toys and

It organises and distributes the gifts to families who are struggling below the poverty line. Dudley Coun-cil staff collected items for the appeal





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Raw garage rock is in Hinds sight

ALBUMS

THE girly garage rock sound of young Spanish band Hinds has a ramshackle charm on their debut album Leave Me

They put a female slant on the sort of chaotic rock that's familiar from The Libertines and Palma Violets on San Diego and there is something oddly touching about I'll Be Your Man.

No one who has ever embraced the put of the cap't help but onion their least their cap's their but onion their least their cap's their but onion their least their cap's their cap's their least the

touching about I'll Be Your Man.

No one who has ever embraced the punk ethic can't help but enjoy their lofi chant-along rock 'n' roll with its vintage surf guitar sound.

Hinds will be in concert at Birmingham venue The Hare & Hounds, in Kings Heath, on February 23.

Handsworth singer Ruby Turner gets the showcase she deserves with the album Jools & Ruby, in which the vocal mainstay of Jools Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra takes centre stage for a soul-stirring and foot-tapping selection of new and vintage songs.

Ruby has a voice as big and rich as her cheery personality and is second to none in the UK when it comes to singing soul, gospel, jazz, blues and reggae. All those genres and more are covered on this 22 track selection with top-notch tinkling of the ivories from her old pal Jools, the boogie woogie specialist, and classy rhythm and brass from the orrhestra.

ner old pai Joods, the bodge woodge specialist, and classy rhythm and brass from the orchestra.

Highlights include her versions of Peace In The Valley, This Train, Honey Hush, the saucy My Country Man and new Ruby-Jools co-written song Pray Have Mercy.

new Huby-Jools co-written song Pray Have Mercy.

Cage The Elephant come from Kentucky but sound more like they hall from the UK with a sound influenced by Britpop, mod and glam rock. Hints



lo-fi chant-along rock 'n' roll with a vintage surf guitar sound

of The Kinks and Supergrass can be heard on their fourth album **Tell Me** I'm **Pretty**, produced by Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys. They are also contemporary enough to appeal to fans of Peace and The Temples.

Highlights include recent single Trouble, the Animals-like Cold Cold Cold and Marc Bolan meets The Monkees stomper That's Right.

Sometimes artists from the avant garde can make the finest, most so-phisticated popular music, and people such as David Bowie, Brian Eno and Green Gartside spring to mind. Maybe it's something to do with de-construct-ing music to find out what makes it

Add the name of **Julia Holter**, a

31-year-old Californian who has pursued her own path over three experimental albums leading to her latest,

mental albums leading to her latest, Have You In My Wilderness. It is be-ing described as a classic by some.

I missed it when originally released in the autumn and am grateful to have belatedly caught up. With her uncon-ventional but appealing phrasing, she performs quirky pop songs and moody ballads in which, Bowie-like, she tends

to play characters.
She is a fresh talent who could appeal to admirers of Kate Bush, Tori Amos and Alison Goldfrapp, even fans of more mainstream pop stars, such as Ellie Goulding and Lana Del Ray, could be drawn in by this intriguing, captivat-



Star Matt doesn't slack to dish up comedy fare

THE Hippodrome panto gets brighter, sparklier, cheesier and more slick with every passing year.

passing year.
This is a big-name production with Julian Clary as the Slave of the Ring, Marti Pellow as Abanazar and Lee Mead as Aladdin but the show's undoubted star is Matt Slack, a comediate to be because when attempts to the dian to his bones, who returns to the venue for his third year running as the

vertice for his till d year furning as the star comic turn.

For this show he heroically performed with a bad throat infection, against the advice of doctors, as the

against the advice or doctors, as the increasingly croaky Wishee Washee but still served up the best laughs.

The show delivers bursts of fire, a 3-D sequence, and all of the hi-tech effects we have come to expect from

21st century theatre shows but happily there is still room for traditional panto fare, with a splendid comedy-acrobatic display from the Acromaniacs and a very funny song sequence performed by unwitting children plucked from the

by unwitting children plucked from the audience.

The obligatory local references are crammed in, with plenty of Black Country-ese. Hearing Julian Clary utter the phrase 'bostin' wench' is almost worth the ticket money alone. His many and outrageous costumes – including a pair of hooped earrings so big they nestled under his armpits – must have swallowed up the major chunk of the wardrobe budget. wardrobe budget.

baddie impact.

The magic carpet ride provides the big 'How do they do that?' moment as the rug, with Wishee and The Ring Slave aboard, hovers above the audience and flips over 360 degrees before righting itself, with its occupants, amazingly, still intact.

The jokes are really for adults – rubbing the lamp and references to the ring are all milked for their innuendos – but the humour is for everyone. For all its impressive hi-tech trickery, this panto would be missing something

panto would be missing something special without Matt Slack. The great news is he is returning next year to play the lead in Dick Whittington. Runs until January 31.

by Marion Brennan

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Thurs, 14th Jan

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| | 19 00 | -20.30 | | |

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS 15th Jan. 10.00-11.30 **HEALTHY BAL** Tues. 12th Jan. 17.30-19.00

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£40.00#

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LANGUAGES

| NEW: ITALIAN F | OR BEGIN | NERS | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Mon. 11th Jan. | 09.30-11.30 | 5 wks. | £35.00# |
| Mon. 22nd Feb. | 09.30-11.30 | 5 wks. | £35.00# |
| NEW: SPANISH | FOR BEGIN | INERS | |
| Wed. 13th Jan. | 14.00-15.30 | 5 wks. | £26.25# |
| Wed. 24th Feb. | 14.00-15.30 | 5 wks. | £26.25# |
| NEW: PORTUGI | JESE FOR E | BEGINNI | ERS |
| Tues. 12th Jan. | 12.00-14.00 | 5 wks. | £35.00# |
| Tues. 23rd Feb. | 12.00-14.00 | 5 wks. | £35.00# |
| ITALIAN IMPRO | VERS | | |
| Mon. 11th Jan. | 12.00-14.00 | 10 wks. | £65.00# |
| SPANISH IMPRO | OVERS | | |
| Thurs. 14th Jan. | | 5 wks | £35 00# |
| Thurs. 25th Feb. | | | |
| FRENCH | | | |
| Beg. Tues. 12th Jar | n 18 00-19 00 | 10 wks | £35.00# |
| Imp. Tues.12th Jar | | | |
| Int. Mon. 11th Jar | | | |
| Adv. Thurs.14th Jai | | | |
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CREATIVE ARTS

| PAINTING AND | DRAWING S | uitable for all leve | ls |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Tues. 12th Jan. | 19.00-21.00 | 10 wks. | £65.00# |
| Wed. 13th Jan. | 09.30-11.30 | 10 wks. | £65.00# |
| Thurs. 14th Jan. | 10.00-12.00 | 10 wks. | £65.00# |
| Thurs. 14th Jan. | 13.30- 15.30 | 10 wks. | £65.00# |
| DRAWING FOR | BEGINNERS | S | |
| Mon. 7th Mar. | 14.30-16.30 | 3 wks. | £27.00# |
| JEWELLERY MA | AKING | | |
| Mon. 7th Mar. | 19.00-21.00 | 3 wks. | £27.00# |
| CREATIVE WRI | TING | | |
| Mon. 11th Jan. | 19.00-21.00 | 5 wks. | £35.00# |
| Mon. 22nd Feb. | 19.00-21.00 | 5 wks. | £35.00# |
| PHOTOGRAPH | Y FOR BEGI | NNERS | |
| | | | |

10.00-12.00 3wks.

| Fri. | 26th | Feb. | 10.00-12.00 | 3wks. | £27.00# | |
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| | | | HANDICRAF | тѕ | | |
| BEG | BEGINNERS DRESSMAKING | | | | | |
| Tues. | 12th | Jan. | 09.30-11.30 | 10 wks. | £68.00# | |
| UPH | OLST | ERY | suitable for all level | ls | | |
| Tues. | 12th | Jan. | 12.00-14.00 | 10 wks. | £68.00# | |
| Thurs | . 14th | Jan. | 19.30-21.00 | 10 wks. | £52.50# | |
| UPH | OLST | ERY 8 | SOFT FUR | RNISHINGS | | |
| Wed. | 13th | Jan. | 12.00-14.00 | 10 wks. | £68.00# | |
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| Wed. | 13th | Jan. | 14.30-16.30 | 10 wks. | £68.00# | |
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| Thurs | . 14th | Jan. | 18.00-19.30 | 10 wks. | £52.50# | |
| SEW | ING I | MADE | SIMPLE | | | |
| Thurs | . 14th | Jan. | 18.00-20.00 | 10 wks. | £65.00# | |
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HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER 12.30-15.30 2 wks

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| MINDFULNES | S | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|---------|
| Mon. 18th Jan. | 19.30-21.00 | 4 wks. | £27.00# |
| MEDITATION I | FOR WELLBE | ING | |
| Thurs 3rd Mar | 19 30-21 00 | 4 wks | £27 00# |

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

12.30-15.30 2 wks.

RAG RUG MAKING

26th Feb.

22nd Jan.

14.30-17.30 1 wk. £20.00 Tues. 22nd Mar.

WORKSHOPS

HEALTH AND FITNESS

| IN | TRO | DUC. | TION | TO I | PILATES | |
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Tues. 19th Jan.

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|-------------------------|-------------|----------|---------|
| Thurs. 14th Jan. 17. | 45-19.00 | 5 wks. | £17.50# |
| Thurs. 25th Feb. 17.4 | 45- 19.00 | 4 wks. | £14.00# |
| PILATES | | | |
| Beg. Fri. 8th Jan. 10.0 | 00 - 11.00 | 10 wks. | £40.00# |
| Imp. Tues.12th Jan. 19. | 00 - 20.00 | 10 wks. | £35.00 |
| Imp. Wed. 13th Jan 18. | 30 - 19.30 | 10 wks. | £35.00 |
| Imp. Thurs.14th Jan. 19 | .05 - 20.05 | 5 9 wks. | £31.50 |
| Imp. Thurs.14th Jan. 20 | .10 - 21.10 | 9 wks. | £31.50 |
| FITNESS YOGA | | | |
| Beg. Tues. 12th Jan. 20 | .05 -21.05 | 10 wks. | £35.00 |
| ADULT SWIMMING | LESSON | ıs. | |

| ADULT SWIMMII | NG LESSON | IS: | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------|---------|--|
| Beg. Mon. 4th Jan. | 19.00-19.45 | 11 wks. | £31.50# | |
| Beg. Tues.12th Jan | . 19.00-19.45 | 10 wks. | £31.50# | |
| mp. Mon. 4th Jan. | 19.45-20.30 | 11 wks. | £31.50# | |
| nt. Mon. 4th Jan. | 20.30-21.15 | 11 wks. | £31.50# | |
| HEALTHY BALANCE | | | | |

18.00 - 19.00 9 wks.

DANCE

| DANCE FIT | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Beg. Tues.12th Jan. 19.00-20.00 | 10 wks. | £35.00 |
| BALLROOM DANCING | | |
| Beg. Mon.11th Jan. 18.45- 19.45 | 10 wks. | £36.60 |
| Int. Mon.11th Jan. 19.45 - 21.00 | 10 wks. | £45.75 |
| | | |

GUITAR (ADULTS)

| Beg. Thurs.21st Jan. | 19.00-20.30 | 4 wks. | £21.00# |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| Beg. Thurs.25th Feb | .19.00-20.30 | 5 wks. | £26.25# |
| Imp. Tue.12th Jan. | 19.00-21.00 | 10 wks. | £65.00# |
| Int. Mon.11th Jan. | 19.00-21.00 | 10 wks. | £65.00# |

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| Level 2Mon. | 11th Jan. 17.45-18.45 | 5 wks. | £45.75 |
| Level 1Mon. | 22nd Feb.16.45-17.45 | 5 5 wks. | £45.75 |
| Level 2Mon. | 22nd Feb.17.45-18.4 | 5 5 wks. | £45.75 |
| Level 3Thur. | 13th Jan. 17.45-18.4 | 5 10 wks. | £50.00 |
| | | | |

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| Wed. | 20th Jan. | 09.30-11.30 | 4 wks. | £36.00# |
| Wed. | 24th Feb. | 09.30-11.30 | 4 wks. | £36.00# |
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| Mon. | 22nd Feb. | 19.00-21.00 | 5 wks. | £45.00 |
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|--------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------|
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hillst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is curate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We serve the right to amend details as required.

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| Thurs. | 24th Mar. | 09.00-12.00 | 1 wk. | £19.20 |
| Fri. | 17th June | 09.00-12.00 | 1 wk. | £19.20 |
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INFORMATION?

E mail: I4lcommunitygroup@hotmail.co.uk





















Awards at the double for Kay

A BUSINESSWOMAN from Sedgley has won two awards for her weight loss business and praise from her local MP.
Kay Bowen received the 'above and be-

Kay Bowen received the 'above and beyond' award and was named the highest
achiever in the West Midlands by Cambridge Diet Weight Plan.

Ms Bowen has opened a new centre in the
heart of Sedgley. She has also worked with
restaurants to create healthy menus for
people who want to lose weight.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who nominated Ms Bowen for an award, said: "I'm
delighted to see Kay's success being record.

delighted to see Kay's success being recognised with these awards. I know how hard she has worked to come up with new ideas, support local charities and keep her business growing. I think she has done an absolutely brilliant job."

Residents hit the streets to Mortgage age limit scrapped protest at speeding in village

speeding through a village near Stourbridge took to the streets.

Councillors and residents in Hagley were united in a protest call for action to slow motorists, which saw them patrol the village in high-vis clothing while holding placards to remind drivers to watch their speed.

Traffic problems and near crashes persuaded

villagers to come out of their homes during the run-up to Christmas and produce posters and banners on the side of the busy road to protest

around 400 homes being approved by members of Bromsgrove District Council in January 2013.

of bromsgrove District Council in January 2016.
Careless
Hagley Parish Council chairman Councilfor Steve Collella led the campaign, which saw
around 50 people protest on a Saturday morning, calling for motorists to slow down and for
20 people mod control to be implemented.

30mph speed controls to be implemented. Councillor Collela said: "We've had a lot of support with this campaign and I was pleased to

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ering how bad the weather was."

He added: "We have handed out over 1,000 leaflets to residents, which shows how serious we are with changing the state of these roads

we are with changing the state of these roads.

"Only a few weeks a young girl was nearly knocked down and there has been numerous cases of accidents waiting to happen, not to mention the number of near misses."

Councillor Collela said the matter could not be resolved by the parish council but they aimed to keep pressure on for the county council to the cetter extre even the increase.

take action over the issue

DUDLEY Building Society has scrapped its age limits on mortgages in a move that it says is in line with the needs of an age-

it says is in line with the needs of an age-ing population.

The society, which has its head office at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, and is led by chief executive Jeremy Wood, had pre-viously had an aged limit of 75 by which

viously had an aged limit of 76 by which time people had to repay the loan. It will now consider applicants on the basis of affordability alone, not age, across its range of mortgages and it will apply to people wanting to re-mortgage and those

seeking new mortgages.

The move has been sparked by an increasingly elderly population, the number of centenarians living in Britain has risen by 72 per cent over the past decade alone

Billy strums up charity support



Brian Dakin, AKA Billy Spakemon, is showcasing local talent in aid of a cancer charity

A POET, author and broadcaster from Dudley has brought together a host of Black Country musicians to perform on a fund-raising album and take part in a charity

Billy Spake Mon, real name Brian Dakin. Billy Spake Mon, real name Brian Dakin, has released the 12 song album 'Christmas Dreams', which will see all proceeds go to Dudley's White House Cancer Support charity on Ednam Road. It provides help, support and information to people with cancer, their families, friends and carers in Dudley and surrounding areas.

Through his Omma n Chain Show on Through his Omma n Chain Show on

Through his Omma n Chain Show on Black Country Community Radio with friends and collaborators John Langford and Peter Kelly, around 250 CDs have been made. The CD is available at the new Black Country T-shirts shop in Castle Street,

His previous album Billy's Bostas raised oney for Langley Memorial Fund to relo-

cate stained glass war memorial windows. Billy, 63, said: "It is so important to support local charities and especially one that is so close to my heart, I sadly lost my wife to cancer.
"The album is a collection of songs from

performers all over the Black Country. There is a wealth of talent in this area, we just need the platform to showcase it.

"Not only will we be performing and putting on a right show, but we'll be looking to raise as much money as possible.

The shows in January will be on January 19 at Baggeridge Tea Rooms and January 23 at Oldbury Rep on Spring Walk, with the Pete Boddis Band headlining. Both start at 7.30pm and tickets are priced £5.

Air Space bounces Fundraising into Black Country

A TRAMPOLINE park has opened in Wolverhampton. Air Space Wolverhampton is located at Bentley Bridge Retail Park and is set out over two floors. It consists of over 100 interconnected trampolines, freestyling areas and

The new attraction also contains Wolverhampton's first

The new attraction also contains Wolverhampton's first parkour and ninja run courses, which blend elements of freestyle running and military obstacle courses.

The £1.5 million park in Wednesfield has created 90 new jobs for the city and could compete in the Black Country with Jump Nation, who have stated their intentions to open a trampoline park on Bentley Mill Way in Walsall.

Air Space is looking to replicate its success from Scotland where its site in East Kilbride was used by more than 100 000 roughle in its first 12 worths. It has fourther its site in

200,000 people in its first 12 months. It has further sites in Manchester and Stevenage.

More information is at www.air-space.co.uk website.

at mosque

A MOSQUE in Halesowen raised more than £1,000 for charity following a Macmil-lan Coffee Morning.

More than 140 people at-tended the event held at the Baitul-Gafoor Mosque, with members baking and selling cakes and savouries in aid of the cancer charity. A bric-abrac sale and henna art ses

brac sale and nenna art session also took place.
Saima Irfan, President of Ahmadiyya Women's Group Birmingham West, said: "This is our second fundraising event for Mac-



















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12

9

Council's allotments can't keep up with demand for plots

BUDDING vegetable growers in parts of Sandwell could face a wait of up to four years to get an allot-

The grow-your-own plots

The grow-your-own plots around the borough have waiting lists with people eager to grow their own. Spaces at Britannia Park, Kenrick Park and Cherry Orchard, in West Bromwich, Rowley Regis and Cradley Heath, are the most sought-after areas out of the 22 council-run sites.

Anyone wanting to rent an allotment on any of those

an allotment on any of those three sites could be waiting

three sites could be waiting for up to four years.

Council officials say they are a range of factors why waiting lists are longer for certain allotment sites. These include the size of the site and the number of plots available.

They also say growers often have plots for up to 25 years at a time – limiting availability of new pitches. Allotments in Brunswick Park, Wednesbury, Hall

Park, Wednesbury, Hall Road, in Warley, Pound

Road, in Oldbury, and Perry Park, in Rowley Regis, have the next longest lists – with people waiting three years for plots.

for plots.

Thirty-one people have applied for patches at Cherry Orchard, making it the most popular plot, while both Britannia and Kenrick currently have 21 people on their waiting lists.

Figures, released through a Freedom of Information request, show two-year waits apply in Oldbury at Cemetery Road, Meadow Road and Newbury Lane.

The council said 84 new plots had been let out over

plots had been let out over

Officials have been working with gardeners to set up a plan to help distribute

up a plan to help distribute excess produce to help needy families in the borough.

A pilot scheme is under way at the Brandhall Road allotments and has echoes of the 'dig for victory' campaign in the Second World War in which gardeners were encouraged to grow food to tackle shortages.



Top of the plots - Kenrick Park allotments, off Constance Avenue, West Bromwich, are one of the most sought after sites for the growing number of prospective gardeners aiming to grow their own food in the Black Country

Director has been disqualified after misleading clients

A BLACK Country director who offered debt manage

A BLACK Country director who offered debt management help to people struggling with their money has been disqualified for misleading customers.

Andrew Alan Dunn, who was a director of failed debt management company Marketing And Lead Generation Limited – MLG – which traded as One Debt Solution, has been disqualified for misleading customers and for declaring a £330,000 dividend to shareholders when customers' compairs were under review.

compaints were under review.

His company offered debt management services to people suffering from financial problems.

Investigations

Mr Dunn, aged 42 of Hagley, Stourbridge gave an undertaking to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, which prevents him from acting as a

director of a company for 11 years from December 10. The disqualification follows an investigation by the In-solvency Service. Its investigations found that persistent complaints were made by customers between 2010 and 2013 about MLG's failure to pay over money intended for their creditors, and that the independent adjudicator who reviewed the complaints decided that the customers had been misled and should receive refunds.

In February 2013, at a time when customers' complaints were still under review, MLG declared a £330,000 dividend to its parent company, of which Mr Dunn was himself a shareholder.

Transport backed by combined authority

PLANS to revolutionise transport in the West Midlands will see the region 'speaking with one voice', according to transport bosses.

The 20-year Movement for Growth strategy has

been adopted by the The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) after a three month consultation.

It will see new suburban rail lines, cycleways and Metro

rapid transit system, a com-prehensive cycle network and better roads and rail.

Forward

He said: "Movement for Growth will be the transport strategy for the forthcoming West Midlands Combined Authority and the region will be speaking with one voice in support of it. We have a clear path to follow so now is the time to move forward and deliver these schemes." these schemes.'

these schemes."

The projects include extending the Midland Metro tram route between Brierley Hill, Dudley and Wednesbury to connect to the existing line to Birmingham and

mg line to Birmingnam and Wolverhampton. It will also bring improve-ments to junctions on the M5 and M6 motorways, as well as new rail services

between Walsall and Stour-

It will see new suburban rail lines, cycleways and extensions throughout the region, with a raft of schemes earmarked for the Black Country.
All of the projects have been previously mooted, but the TTA aims to drive them through by 2035.
ITA chair Councillor Roger Lawrence said the vision was to create a fully-integrated train, bus and combined Aut to include Birming Coventry, Dudley, San Solihull, Walsall and verhampton. It will overhampton. It will overhampton. It will or scheme are the west of the combined Autonomic Coventry, Dudley, San Solihull, Walsall and verhampton. It will overhampton. It will or scheme are the west of the combined Autonomic Coventry, Dudley, San Solihull, Walsall and verhampton. It will or scheme are the coventry of the coventry bridge.
The Treasury has pledged £1 billion of Government cash to create the West Midlands Combined Authority, cash to create the West Mid-lands Combined Authority, to include Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wol-verhampton. It will oversee a 10-year devolved £8bn transport budget.

ansport budget.

Mr Lawrence said a key Mr Lawrence said a key aim was to help the West Midlands unlock the full economic potential of the HS2 high speed rail line, which will link Birmingham

which will link Birmingham to London in 2026 and later to Manchester and Leeds. Movement for Growth sets out the transport in-frastructure needed to best feed and connect into HS2 including enhanced rail and tram links.

The proposals include smart technology including ticketless travel and real time information.

The Wednesbury to Brierley Hill tram extension was

a key recommendation of the recent Black Coun-try Rapid Transit Review, which also helped shaped Movement for Growth.

Spate of moped thefts

bridge and Kingswinford areas since Christmas Day.

Anyone who has any information about the thefts is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101 or the Crimes-

toppers hotline anonymously on 0800 555 111.

POLICE have told moped owners to be on their guard following a spate of thefts in the area. Five mopeds have been stolen from across the Stour-

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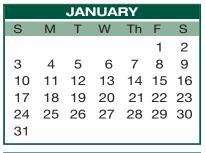
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Strictly not to be missed!

fans have been waiting for. The Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour returns to Birmingham for a fab-ulous

ninth year.

And leading the pack will be this year's Glitter Ball winner Jay McGuiness – one fifth of the globally successful band, The

ntth of the globally successful band, The Wanted.

He will be partnered again by professional Aliona Vilani who recently announced that she is quitting the BBC TV show.

The modest Jay, who wowed from week one of the series, said: "I'm used to performing in front of massive crowds when touring with The Wanted, but performing with Aliona on the Strictly Live Tour will be a totally different experience.

experience.
"I loved my time on the TV series, but the idea of being back out in front of live arena audiences is something I'm very much looking forward to."

Favourite

Other celebrities booked in for the three-day Birmingham run from January 22-24 are Helen George, best known for her role of nurse Trixie Franklin in the multi-award winning BBC series Call the Midwife. She will be part

nered by Aljaz Skorjanec.
Helen says: "I had a brilliant time on Strictly, so I'm very excited to continue my journey and have the chance to show off some of my favourite dances to audiences on the UK

of my favourite dances to audiences on the CT Tour.

"I'm sure that it'll be amazing to dance in front of huge arena audiences with Aljaz.

"I'm very much looking forward to the audience helping me feel at home on the dance floor each night."

Jay and Helen join Frankie Bridge from The Saturdays, actress Georgia May Foote from Coronation Street, who reached this year's final, partnered by new boy Giovanni Pernice celebrity thef Ainsley Harriott and TV presenter Anita Rani, again teamed with the other senter Anita Rani, again teamed with the other new dancer Gleb Savchenko.



Jay McGuiness is lifted in the air by fellow celebrities and dancers after winning the Strictly final

who will be partnering Janette Manrara. Jake has been a part of some of the most memora

has been a part of some of the most memorable storylines on the soap for the past decade, performing the role of Max Branning.

He impressed the judges and TV audiences alike with his slick dance moves on last year's BBC One series of Strictly Come Dancing, and now he has the chance to show off his skills to grans audiences on the tour.

arena audiences on the tour.

Jake says: "I really enjoyed my time on Strictly last year but couldn't do the tour due

to EastEnders' filming commitments, so it's great to get the chance to throw myself into the whole experience again as part of the 2016 Strictly tour

"I'm so pleased that Frankie is doing the tour as well so we can enjoy reliving it all again together and I'm very happy that I'm being reunited with Janette.
"I can't wait to relive some of my favourite

dances in arenas across the country

The tour starts in Birmingham on Friday,

Dainty Georgia May Foote, reached this year's final

January 22 with an evening performance at $7.30\,\mathrm{pm}$, Saturday at $2.30\,\mathrm{pm}$ and $7.30\,\mathrm{pm}$, and Sunday at $1.30\,\mathrm{pm}$ and $6.30\,\mathrm{pm}$.

Tickets are on sale from www.theticketfact ory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. The tickets are priced at £73.83, £51.33, £40.08 (includes admin fees + 70p facility fee)

+£2.55 fulfilment fee.

For more information and dates of the other tour venues visit www.strictlycomedanci



Frankie will be dancing with favourite Kevin Clifton, whose sister Karen will join the tour for the professional dances and group numbers, and Ainsley will be teamed with Na-

Table Lowe
They will be joining the 2016 tour host Mel Giedroyc, together with judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood, who also directs the

Also appearing in this year's tour is previ-ous contestant EastEnders star Jake Wood

tour, and Bruno Tonioli.



CHOICE



The Voice UK

(BBC1, 7.30pm) New series. The BBC's singing contest returns, with Paloma Faith and Boy George fill the two chairs left vacant following Tom Jones' departure, and Rita Ora's defection to The X Factor last year. Veteran coaches Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson return to take their place on the panel, along with presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. The contest gets under way with the first of seven traditional 'blind auditions' stages, in which the four coaches must select their teams by assessing their vocal ability alone. Among the auditionees are a punk fan whose twist on a pop classic melts hearts on the panel, and a self-aware fishmonger whose performance includes plenty of piscine-themed puns to lighten the mood.

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen I ive. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 Live 12. In Football Focus. 1. utl Live Athletics. Coverage of the Great Edinburgh Cross Country from Holyrood Park. 2. 30 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the opening men's semi-final. 4. 30 Final Score. 5.20 Now You See It. 5.50 BBC News.

- 6.00 Regional Programme.
 6.10 Celebrity Mastermind. CBeebies presenter Katy Ashworth, actor Thomas Turgoose, former jockey Mick Fitzgerald, and radio presenter Shelagh Fogarty take to the black chair. Last in the series.
- 6.40 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present an FA Cup version of the unorthodox general knowledge
- quiz.

 The Voice UK. New series. The BBCs flagship singing contest returns, with Patoms faith and Sey George fill the two spinning chairs left vacant following Tom Jones' departure, and Rita Ora's defection to The X factor last year. Veteran coaches Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson return to take their place on the panel, along with presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. The contest gets presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes. The contest gets under way with the first of seven traditional "bind auditions" stages, in which the four coaches must select their teams by assessing their vocal ability alone. Among the auditionees are a punk fan whose twist on a pop classic melts hearts on the panel, and a self-aware fishmonger whose performance includes plenty of piscine-themed puns to lighten the mood.
- 9.05 Casualty. Dixie steps in to save Nikki's family from feeling the full force of her wrath, and Cal decides not to tell a troubled Ethan what he has learned about his origins.
- The National Lottery Live. 10.05 BBC News; Weather
- 10.25 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights, Gary Lineker presents action from the third-round fixtures, including Eastleigh v Bolton Wanderers; National Lottery Update. 12.00 Film: The Peacemaker. (1997) 1.55 Film: Halloween: Resurrection.
- (2002) 3.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 3.25 BBC News.

RRC2

6.10 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) 7.00 Film; Jubal. (1956) 8.40 Film; The Importance of Being Earnest. (1952) 10.10 Animal Park. (R) 11.10 Natural 10.10 Animal Park, (R) 11.10 Natural World. (R) 12.00 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 1.3 ds James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 1.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.15 Money for Nothing. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.45 For What It's Worth. (R) 4.30 Live Darts: BDO World Championships.

- 6.00 Flog It! Paul Martin visits Flog III Paul Martin visits
 Loughborough's Town Hall and
 discovers the area's link with the
 popular Ladybird books. Valuable
 items up for auction include a
 concertina and a chocolate cup.
- 6.30 World's Sneakiest Animals Animals that use deceptive tactics to find food, from the manipulative mantis that looks like a flower to
- Infalls that flows like a little discovery the control of the cont kitted out exactly as it would have been in the 1830s. (R)
- 8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and Wilson decide to recruit women into the platoon to take care of the less demanding tasks, but the captain loses his heart to an attractive widow. (R)
- attractive widow. (R)

 9.00 Live at the Apollo. The stand-up show returns with Alan Carr hosting from London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing and introducing guests Francesca Martinez and Nish Kumar. (R)
- 9.45 Insert Name Here. Comedy panel game in which Sue Perkins asks teams to decide who is the best of the many people who share a particular name. With Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe. (R)
- 10.15 QI XL. Cariad Lloyd, Dermot O'Leary and Phill Jupitus compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies.
- Davies.

 11.00 Dragons' Den. A former contestant makes a second attempt to impress the panel, and a former figure skater fails to inspire much conflidence in Peter Jones. (R)
- 12.00 Darts: BDO World Championships 12.50 Film: Genghis Khan. (1965) 2.55 Film: Captain Apache. (1971) 4.25 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CiTV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Pat. 8. Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30 Scrambledt: Scrambledt 7.35 Scrambledt: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambledt: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambledt: Nords & Monsters. 8.30 Scrambledt: Nords & Monsters. 8.30 Scrambledt:

- Monsters. 8.30 Scrambled!:
 Thunderbirds Are G. 9.05 Scrambled!:
 Thunderbirds Are G. 9.05 Scrambled!:
 The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 9.25 TrV
 News. 9.30 Murder, She Wrote. (R)
 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.
 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.20
 Th V News; Weather. 12.25 The Jeremy
 Kyle Show. (R) 1.30 Judge Rinder. (R)
 2.30 The Chase. (R) 3.30 Doc Martin.
 (R) 4.30 The Martin Lewis Money Show.
 (R) 5.00 Ninja Warrior UK. (R)
 6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
 6.15 ITV News; Weather.
 6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry
- 6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates more comical home videos, including a cat attacking a drone, and a pensioner who left a trail of destruction through a
- supermarket.

 7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shephard,
 Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara
 host the third heat, as competitors
 from across the UK test their
 strength, speed and courage in
 this obstacle-course challenge.
- Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness lines up another selection of potential sweethearts for his 30 single women. This time, singing software engineer Rhys from Merthyr Tydfil, semi-pro footballer lilis from the Wirral, Londonbased personal trainer Ola and horse-rider Sam from Chester set out to impress the ladies, hoping they keep their lights on as a sign of approval. 8.00 Take Me Out, Paddy McGuinness
- 9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. New series. The host returns with a new series for the new year, and is joined by actor Steve Carell, chef Gordon Ramsay and singer Ellie Goulding.

10.20 ITV News; Weather

10.2011 News, weather.

10.35 Film: Sex and the City 2. (2010)
Premiere. Fashion-conscious
writer Carrie escapes the strain of
married life with a disaster-strewn
trip to Abu Dhabi. Comedy sequel,
with Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon and Kim Cattrall.

1.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 Ironman France. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 The Morning Line. 10.00 Film: Von Ryan's Express. (1965) 12.20 The World's Most Famous Train. (R) 1.25 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Kempton Park and Wincanton. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.30 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.05 Channel 4 News.

- (R) 5.35 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.05 Channel 4 News. 6.35 Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help two sets of house-hunters looking for homes in Yorkshire. Kate works in international looking for homes in Yorkshire. Kate works in international development and has spent years in Africa and elsewhere around the globe. Now she wants to put down roots and has chosen the picturesque Yorkshire Dales. In nearby Leeds, perfectionist couple Charley and Hayley have spent nine months trying to clinch a deal on their first home, terrified of making the wrong decision. Can Kirstie and Phil help them both find what they re looking for? (R) Britain's Wildest Weather 2015. Documentary featuring footage of unusual weather conditions in the past year shot by members of the public, including freak halistorms, 113mph winds, deadly lightning strikes and even a tornado. The programme includes interviews with those involved, including tanker pilots, rescue teams, weather watchers and hikers. (R) Film: The Hunger Games:
- weather Watcher's and nikers. (r)
 9.00 Film: The Hunger Games:
 Catching Fire. (2013) Premiere.
 Kathiss Everdeen's victory in a
 televised death match makes her a
 focus for revolution against the
 totalitarian nation she lives in. The
 rulers of the regime plot to crush
 disease with a paw scripe of dissent with a new series of games, in which past champions battle it out. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Jennifer Lawrence.
- 11.50 Film: The Day the Earth Stood Still. (2008) An alien is sent to Earth on a mission to decide if the human race should be wiped out
- or allowed to continue existing. Sci-fi remake, with Keanu Reeves

 1.45 Hollyoaks. (R) 3.50 Phil Spencer:
 Secret Agent. (R) 4.45 Kirstie's
 Handmade Treasures. (R) 5.00 Deal or
 No Deal. (R) 5.50 How I Met Your
 Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 9.30 The Saturday Show. 11.30 Can't Pay? Well Take It Away. (R) 12.25 Can't Pay? Well Take It Away. (R) 12.55 Film: Columbo: How to Dial a Murder. (1978) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.00 Film: Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder. (1978) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 5.00 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

6.00 5 News Weekend.

6.05 World War II in Colour. This edition focuses on the edition focuses on the effectiveness of the German biltzkrieg – intense military campaigns that aimed to bring about a swift victory using tanks supported by aircraft and infantry. This new type of warfare took the Allies by surprise and gave Hitter opportunity to seize Polland and France. Actor Robert Powell paratases the story of the noibal paratases the story of the noibal and Flance. Actor Nobel Frowers narrates the story of the global conflict, told using colourised archive footage, state-of-the-art terrain mapping and cutting-edge computer graphics, and based on government papers and previously classified files. (R) 7.05 World War II: Battlefield

world war II: Battleffeld Recovery. New series. Excavation experts retrieve Second World War relics from the war-zones of the Eastern Front, telling the stories of fallen soldiers by examining their

8.00 Chasing Monsters. New series Documentary series which seeks out colossal underwater creatures in the most remote corners of the planet, beginning with the monster

shark. 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The first eviction from the housemates' point of view, and the rest of the goings-on as the new showbiz pals continue to get along – or not, the case may be.

case may be. 10.00 Jason Manford Live at the Manchester Apollo. The comedian performs before his home-town audience during his 2009 tour, offering his thoughts on the rules of driving and the proper way to use a urinal. (R)

way to use a urmar. (n)

11.15 Lip Sync Battle: David Walliams v
Alesha Dixon. David Walliams and
Alesha Dixon go head to head. (R)

11.45 Tattoo Disasters UK.

12.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 4.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R) 4.50 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride 8.00 Top Gear
9.05 Film: Shrek the Third (2007) 10.30
Russell Howard's Good News Extra 11.15
Family Guy 1.25 American Dad! 1.45
Russell Howard's Good News Extra 2.30
Impractical Jokers 4.00 Close

BBC Four

7.00 Stories from the Dark Earth: Meet The Ancestors Revisited 8.00 Castles – Britain's Fortified History 9.00 The Young Montalbano 10.45 Blondie: One Way or Another 11.55 Blondie @ Glastonbury 12.50 Top of the Pops: The Story of 1981 1.50 Top of the Pops: 1981 Big Hits 2.50 Synth Britannia at the BBC 3.50 Close

11.05 Ninja Warrior UK 1.15 You've Been Framedl Gold 1.40 Film: The Lake House (2006) 3.45 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) 5.45 Film: Jurassic Park (1993) 8.10 Beowulf: Return to the Shledlands 9.15 Take Me Out - The Gossip 10.20 Film: The Fast and the Furious (2001) 112.25 Film: The Last of the Lads' Mags 1.25 Stateurs? 2.00 Total Lab Governed Livenses Safeword **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

TIV2 Nightscreen
TIV3
11.45 The Adventures of Sherlock
Holmes 2.00 A Touch of Frost 4.00 Film:
Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo (1990) 6.00
Lewis 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Agatha
Christle's Marple 11.55 Marghathads 1.00
The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 1.55
Man About the House 2.20 ITV3
Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4
3.10 Film: Cheyenne Autumn (1964)
3.10 Film: Rio Bravo (1959) 6.00
Storage Wars: Texas 8.00 Storage Wars
9.00 Film: Pale Rider (1985) 11.25 Film:
Heartbreak Ridge (1986) 2.05 Legacy—
The 2015 Rugby World Cup 3.00

11 20 Hollynaks Does Come Dine with 11.20 Hollyoaks Does Come Dine with Me 1.55 Film: Space Chimps (2008) 3.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) Sci-fiadventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf. 11.00 Gogglebox 12.35 The Inbetweeners 1.45 The IT Crowd 2.45 How I Met Your Mother 3.30 Made in Chelsea: End of Season Party 4.20 Revenge

11.00 Gideon of Scotland Yard (1958) 1.00 The Family Stone (2005) 3.05 Carry On Dick (1974) 4.55 Inkheart (2008) 7.00 Terminal Velocity (1994) 9.00 The Grey (2011) 11.15 Dog Soldiers (2002) 1.20 Joy Ride (2001) 3.20 Close



CHOICE



Kieran Bew

Beowulf: Return to the **Shieldlands**

The thanes of the various tribes come together in the Shieldlands to elect their new leader, but the gathering is disrupted when a mysterious murderer strikes. It falls to Beowulf to identify the culprit before he has a chance to kill again and prevent a threat to Rheda's continued rule, Kieran Bew, Joanne Whalley, William Hurt, David Harewood, Gisli Orn Gardarsson, Ed Speleers, David Aiala, Ian Puleston-Davies, Laura Donnelly and Lolita Chakrabarti star.

6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day FA Cup Highlights. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Songs of Praise. 1.50 For What It's Worth. (R) 2.35 Great Barrier Red with David Attenborough. (R) 3.35 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Tottenham Biotsury Leipseter City Tottenham Hotspur v Leicester City (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.05 BBC News

6.05 BBC News.
6.20 Regional Programme.
6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker learns about oilseed rape farming in Herefordshire, and helps chef Jean-Christophe Novelli whip up a feast using the healthy product. Ellie Harrison goes in search of wildlife in Heartwood Forest, chef Tony Singh visits Loch Awe in the Western Isles of Scotland, Tom Heap reports on cuts to rural public transport, and Adam Henson meets the winner of last year's Countryfile Farming Hero award before announcing this year's nominees. year's nominees.

year's nominees.

7.30 Still Open All Hours. Granville arranges a double-date with Madge and Mavis for himself and Gastric – but has to smarten his friend up first. Mrs Featherstone has her eye on a potential new husband.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second of two programmes from Bowood House, Willshire, where the experts examine a box engraved with a secret code and a Russian cigarette case.

War & Peace. Andrei and Nikolai prepare to go into battle with the French, but may be walking into targa. Back at home, Pierre Is, fortion marging tiffe with Helene.

finding married life with Helene harder than expected.

10.00 BBC News.

10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup
Highlights. Action from the
weekends concluding bridder of the distures, including Oxford United v
Swansea city, Carilse United v
Yeovil Town and Tottenham
Hotspur v Leicester City.
11.25 Film: Signs. (2002) M Night
Shyamalan's sci-fi thriller, sarring
Mel Gibson and Joaquin Phoenix.
1.05 Snooker: The Masters – Extra. 3.05
Weather for the Week Ahead. 3.10 BBC
News.

RRC2

6.30 Film: City Beneath the Sea. (1970) Sci-fi adventure, starring Stuart Sci-fi adventure, starring Stuart Whitman. 8.00 Monty Dor's Italian Gardens. (R) 9.00 Countryfile Compilation: Winter Wildlife. (R) 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.15 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 1.00 Live Snooker The Masters. Shaun Murphy Wafar Allen 5.00 Ski Sunday, 5.45 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the men's final.

8.00 Dragons' Den. Entrepreneurs pitch their money-making ideas to a panel of self-made millionaires, who are prepared to invest their company's money in the scheme if they think it could work.

they think it could work.

9.00 My Mediteranean with Adrian Chiles. Part two of two. Adrian gets in touch with his Catholic roots in Rome, riding a Vespa around the city with a priest and joining a crowd come to see the Pope in ST Peter's Square. Adrian also attends his first confession in eight years with an 80-year-old cardinal, learns about converting to Judaism while observing the Sabbath, helps a group of runs in the kitchen, and visits a Catholic school where most of the pupils school where most of the pupils

10.00 A Life on Screen – Stephen Fry. In this documentary, Stephen Fry tells the story behind his success, with contributions from Michael Sheen, Hugh Laurie and Alan Davies. (R)

Davies. (H)

11.00 Snooker: The Masters. Stuart
Bingham v Ding Junhui. Hazel
Irvine presents extended
highlights of the first-round match
on day one at Alexandra Palace,
London, which was played over
the best of 11 frames.

the best of 11 frames.

11.50 Film: Disconnect. (2012) The complex lives of several strangers are made far more problematic by the technology they use to communicate. Ensemble drama, starring Jason Bateman and Hope Davis.

Davis.

1.49 Sign Zone: Countryfile Compilation: Winter Wildlife. Ellie Harrison reports from the Cotswold Water Park, where she helps with maintenance. Plus, a look back at the most memorable moments from the series featuring winter wildlife. (R) 2.35 Holly City, While battling for a research grant at an outdoor pursuit centre, Arthur tries to win Morven's affections. (R) 3.35 This Is BBC Two.

Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35
Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00
Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05
Sody. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30
Scrambled: Scrambled: 7.35
Scrambled: Scrambled: 7.35
Scrambled: Scrambled: Horrid
Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled: Horrid
Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled: Bear Gyll
Henry. (R) 8.30 Scrambled: Bear Gyll
Surival School. 9.05 Scrambled: The
Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 9.25 ITV News.
9.30 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.25 The
Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.30 The
Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.35 TIV Westy.
Weather. 12.50 The Jeremy Kyle Show.
(R) 1.50 Minja Warnfor UK. (R) 2.55
Him: Thunderbal. (1965) James Bond
spy adventure. Starring Sean Connery.
5.30 Regional Programme:
Weather. 3.45 ITV News; Weather.
10.00 Unbellevable Moments Caught

6.00 Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera. Part one of two. Alastair Stewart presents extraordinary eyewitness footage filmed by members of the public.

7.00 Beowulf: Return to the
Shieldlands. A murderer is on the
loose as tribal thanes gather to
elect their new leader, and it falls to Beowulf to identify the culprit before he has a chance to kill

8.00 Endeavour. A mysterious fire that killed an artist with connections to political activists leaves the police baffled, while Bright finds himself short-staffed when a stomach bug snort-staffed when a stomach bug puts most of his men on sick leave. The situation becomes more serious when a housewife dies of the same condition. Endeavour investigates a family-run supermarket, believing the infection may have stemmed from their stock being deliberately contaminated, and discovers dark secrets that may have a secrets that may have a connection to the unexplained

10.00 ITV News: Weather

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure. The actress takes in the varied sights of Mongolia during the second leg of her journey, visiting the nation's capital – Ulan Bator – and meeting renowned Mongolian throatsingers. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the latest fixtures.

12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40
The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00
Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30
George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.30 Location. (R) 3.05 The Simpsons. (R) 3.05 The Simpsons. (R) 3.05 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 The Simpsons. (R) 3.40 Film: 17 Again. (2009) Comedy starring Matthew Perry and Zac Efron. 6.00 Channel 4 News.
6.20 Film: Ice Age: Continental Drift. (2012) A catalcylym leaves

Film: Ice Age: Continental Drift. (2012) A cataclysm leaves prehistoric animals Manny, Sid and Diego lost at sea on a drifting iceberg. They try to find a way to return home, embarking on a journey that leads to an encounter with a ferocious band of piratical creatures. Animated comedy sequel, with the voices of Ray Romano and John Leguizamo.

sequel, with the voices of Ray Romano and John Leguizamo.

8.00 Walking the Himalayas. Levison Wood is reunited with a man who saved his life and joins pilgrims on their way to India's holiest city, where he meets a monk who claims to have gained special powers from eating human lesh. Levison their travels into Nepalic Levison their travels in their travels in their travels in the Nepalic Levison their travels in their travels in the Nepalic Levison travels in the Ne

10.00 The 80s: Ten Years That Changed Britain. A look back at British society and pop culture in the 1980s, examining alternative comedy, football hooliganism and the divisive government of Margaret Thatcher.

11.30 Film: Footloose. (1984) A rebellious student from the city clashes with a preacher from a

clashes with a preacher from a small religious community, who believes dancing is immoral. Drama, with Kevin Bacon.

1.25 SuperScrimpers: Winter Survival Tips. (R) 2.20 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.35 Gadget Man. (R) 5.00 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) 5.10 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05
Bananas in Piyamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina
Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R)
6.45 Tickety Toc. (R) 6.55 Zack and
Uuack. (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard
Too. (R) 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R)
7.25 Paw Partol. (R) 7.40 Little Princess.
(R) 7.55 Pig. Aholy (R) 8.10 Blazze and
the Monster Machines. (R) 8.40 Ben and
holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.55 Wanda
and the Alien. (R) 9.10 Jelly Jamm. (R)
9.20 Toly's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.30
Lazy Town. (R) 9.55 Teenage Mutant
Minja Turtles. (R) 10.30 Funniest Falls.
Falls. & Flops. (R) 10.55 Can't Pay? We'll
Take It Away. (R) 11.55 Can't Pay? We'll
Take It Away. (R) 11.50 Film: Over Her
Dead Body. (2008) Supermatural
romantic comedy. starring Eval. Longoria
and Paul Rudd. 2.35 Film: The First
Wives Club. (1996) Revenge comedy.
starring Golden Hawn. Bette Midler and
Diane Reaton. 4.35 Film: Herbie: Fully
Loaded. (2005) Disney comedy sequel,
starring Lindsay Lohan and Michael
Keaton.
3.35 Film: Herbie: Fully
Loaded. (2005) Disney comedy sequel,
starring Lindsay Lohan and Michael
Keaton.
3.55 Film: Herbie: Fully
Loaded. (2005) Disney comedy sequel,
starring Lindsay Lohan and Michael
Keaton.

Keaton.
6.35 5 News Weekend.
6.40 Film: Star Trek: Generations.
(1994) USS Enterprise Captain
Jean-Luc Picard must stop a
deranged genius obsessed with
gaining access to a mysterious gaining access to a mysterious energy source – regardless of the threat to entire civilisations that lie in his path. Help arrives from an unlikely quarter – his supposedly long dead predecessor Captain James T Kirk. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Patrick Stewart, William Shatner, Malcolm McDowell and Whoopi Goldberg.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The latest from the star-studded compound, as the housemates – minus the one unceremoniously booted out as a result of Friday's early eviction – begin their second weekend

begin their second weekend together.

10.00 The Bafta Britannia Awards 2015. Jack Whitehall hosts the LA-based ceremony recognising outstanding film and TV talent, with Meryl Streep, Sam Mendes and Harrison Ford among the honore

Ford among the honorees.

1.55 Film: The River Wild. (1994) A

white-water rafting expert on holiday with her family is forced to help two fugitives make an escape down a raging river. Action thriller, starring Meryl Streep.

1.55 Super-Casion. 3.10 Inside the Word's Most Dangerous Prison. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes 7.20
The Voice UK 9.00 Film: Puss in Boots
(2011) 10.20 Hussell Howard's Good
News Extra 11.05 Family Guy 11.20
American Dadf 12.25 Fussell Howard's
Good News 1.05 Simpling 1.33 I Know
What You Weighed Last Summer 2.35
Film: Once (2006) 4.00 Close
982 Four

Film: Once (2006) 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 India's Frontier Railways 8.00
Empire of the Tsars: Romanov Russia
with Lucy Worsley 9.00 Darey Bussell's
Looking for Audrey 10.00 Goya Exposed
with Jake Chapman 10. 30 Flamenco:
Gypsy Soul 11.30 Storyville: The Queen
Versailles 1.00 Genesis: Together &
Apart 2.30 The Good Old Days

of Versailles 1.00 Genesis. Loyeune CA Apart 2.30 The Good Old Days
1TV2
12.55 Take Me Out – The Gossip 2.00 Catchphrase 2.45 Film: Bean (1997)
4.30 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) 7.00 Film: Casino Hoyale (2006) 1.50 Film: Casino Hoyale (2006) 11.50 Film: The Last of the Lads Mags 12.50 Reality State 10 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.00 Planet's Funniest Animals 2.26 Teleshopping

11.50 Film: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo (1990) 1.50 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 4.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 6.00 Midsomer Murders 8.00 The Cruise Ship 9.00 Bette Midler: One Night Only 10.00 Wycliffe 11.15 Film: Private Benjamin (1980) 1.25 Film: The Planist (2002) 3.55 Heartbeat

11.10 The Classic Car Show 12.10 Kojak 3.05 Film: Captain Newman MD (1964) 5.45 Film: Tobruk (1967) 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: The Keeper (2009) 11.05 Film: Assassins (1995) 1.45 hitro Circus 2.05 The Professionals 3.00 Teleshopping

12.30 Film: Space Chimps 2: Zartog Strikes Back (2010) 2.05 The Big Bang Theory 2.30 The Big Bang Theory: Superheroes 6.30 Film: Iron Man (2008) 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 The Inbetweeners 12.10 The IT Crowd 1.20 Gogglebox 2.10 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.55 Rules of Engagement 3.20 Hollyoaks

11.00 My Darling Clementine (1946) 1.00 August Rush (2007) 3.15 Biggles (1986) 5.05 Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) 7.00 Run Fat Boy Run (2007) 9.00 Side Effects (2013) 11.10 Haywire (2011) 1.00 Wall Street (1987)

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PICK OF THE WEEK²⁷

FILM CHOICES

Left to Die, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman devotes herself to freeing her wrongfully convicted mother from a brutal Ecuador prison. Fact-based drama, starring Barbara Hershey. (2012)

A Simple Plan, BBC1, 11.40pm

Two brothers and a friend stumble on a fortune in unmarked small dollar bills in the wreckage of a plane and decide to squirrel it away for themselves. However, the strain of keeping the cache secret takes its toll as guilt, paranoia and greed change their relationship for ever. Sam Raimi's psychological thriller, starring Bill Paxton. (1998)

Too Late to Say Goodbye, Channel 5, 3.15pm A woman discovers her husband is having an affair and confides in a mystery man she meets on the internet. When her spouse's lover dies under suspicious circumstances, she fears he may have murdered her – or that her online friend is not as trustworthy as he appears. Drama, starring Stefanie von Pfetten, Rob Lowe and Yannick Bisson, (2009)



Final Recourse, Channel 5, 3,15pm

A wealthy businesswoman spirals into substance abuse as a way of dealing with a tragedy, and, in the haze of a drunken stupor, she is kidnapped. Held in a makeshift prison by her captors, she goes through the agony of drug and alcohol withdrawal, before managing to escape and return home to her family. It's only then, however, that she realises someone close to home may have been behind her abduction. Thriller, starring Teri Polo and Chazz Palminteri. (2013)

Eagle Eye, BBC1, 11.55pm

Two strangers find themselves on the run from the authorities when they receive mysterious phone calls informing them their lives are in danger. They are forced to follow the instructions of a woman who is tracking their every move, while at the same time trying to discover who is behind the conspiracy. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf. (2008)

Derren Pushes things on to another level

id your parents ask the question: "if they told you to jump off a roof, would you?".

Well, Derren Brown is putting that notion to the test this evening (sort of), as he returns to TV with arguably his most his most ambitious experiment to date – The Push.

But rather than directly instruct but ramer than directly instruct someone to jump from a great height, in this brand-new one-off psychological experiment, the multi award-winning illusionist is aiming to persuade an unwitting member of the public to push another person off a roof, seemingly to their death.

According to Reput this illustration.

According to Brown, this illusion will investigate the powers of social compliance and how authority, peer pressure or ideology can be used to make people carry out horrific acts.

Brown believes that when confronted with authority, our natural instinct is to unflinchingly obey.

"The world of social compliance is a deeply fascinating one and hopefully we will take the viewer on a journey that will be disturbing and entertaining in equal measure," he says. His subject is Chris Kingston, a 29-year-old member of the public who is unaware he's being filmed or manipulated at a distance, and the setting is the gala launch night of a fictitious new charity called Push.

Since the first broadcast of his first TV show Derren Brown; Mind Control in 2000, Brown has become increasingly well know.

His touring shows, as well as his TV specials often have fans eager with anticipation about what the 44-year-old is going to do next, and he has just finished a nationwide tour of his latest show Miracle in which he looked at the work of Christian evangelicals and their supposed healing powers.

and their supposed healing powers.
The master entertainer is almost unrecognisable from the spiky hairer goatee-bearded magician sort of a decade years ago.

But he looks back on his growing back catalogue of work with great pride, and two shows in particular stand out for him:

"Apocalypse and Hero At 30,000 Ft."

"The fun of setting up and executing

jokes, and the impact the shows made on their protagonists' lives, made them my personal favourites

"I've remained close to both of the

well:

This show should follow along similar lines, but whether or not Brown will still be on friendly terms with Kingston after basically duping him into an act of attempted murder this evening, remains to be seen.

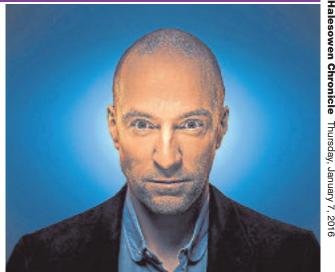
The trickster's power to persuade and enthral is still as strong as ever but he insists there is nothing malicious about anything that he does

"I am often dishonest in my techniques but I'm always honest about my dishonesty," he states.

arout my disnonesty," he states.

One thing's for sure, after an hour watching him tonight you will once again be sat perplexed, asking that age-old Brown question: "How has he done that?"

So sit back, take a deep breath, try to get your grey matter around how he has pulled off his latest act of Derren-do.



Derren Brown: Pushed To The Edge, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

How To Lose Weight Well Channel 4, 8pm

New series. In Britain, around 11 million people almost one in six of the population - are on some form of diet; many in a bid to slim down for a particular event. In this programme, Dr Xand van Tulleken and dietician Hala El-Shafie help six people go on the most hyped and written about diets on the market, with the volunteers divided into Crashers on short-term regimens, Shape Shifters on six-week programmes, and Life Changers on four-month plans. In the first episode, Katie and Rachael want to slim down before a weekend getaway, and have just 10 days to do so.

TUESDAY Stargazing 2016 RBC2. 9pm

Just under a month ago, Professor Brian Cox and the ever-inquisitive Dara O Briain headed up the BBC's coverage of Tim Peake's journey to the International Space Station, Now they're back, and although a new run of Stargazing Live might not be quite as nail-biting, it remains hugely entertaining for astronomers and plucky amateurs alike. Here's hoping they get plenty of clear skies when they take up residence at Jodrell Bank Observatory in

Cheshire for the next three nights. Stay tuned when the programme finishes at 10pm for spin-off show Stargazing: Back to Earth, in which the duo lead a discussion with experts and the studio audience

WEDNESDAY Mary Portas: Secret Shopper Channel 4, 8pm

When it comes to getting the lowdown on Britain's high street, nobody does it better than Mary Portas, Last week, she began a new run of this series, in which she works with some of our best-known brands, as well as more obscure firms, to give shoppers the kind of service they deserve This time around. Portas heads off to Kent. where hair salon Shobie and Co is in trouble thanks to an ever-widening rift hetween the staff and the business's owners. This regularly results in foulmouthed rants on the shop floor, which is driving customers away. It's Portas' job to get everyone singing from the same hymn sheet, although that could be easier said than done. However, if she doesn't succeed, it's likely that Shobie and

THURSDAY Birds of a Feather ITV. 8.30pm

When the first episode of this sitcom aired all the way back in 1989, it saw Tracey discovering that her husband Darryl owed his fortune to his sideline as an armed robber rather than his day

job building conservatories. So somehow it seems strangely fitting that this week. Tracey gets home from her ex's funeral to discover the house has been burgled. However, the family don't have long to reflect on the irony of the situation, as they decide to track down their possessions instead. It's a guest that takes them to a

snooker hall, a pawnbroker and perhaps somewhat more unexpectedly, the infamous Theydon Boys drag club.

just started, but

FRIDAY That's So 1985 Channel 5, 8pm 2016 has only back to an earlier time, when Sinclair C5's briefly looked like the future of transport, and Bob Geldo caused almost as much as a stir for swearing on live TV as he did for trying to tackle famine in Ethiopia Yes, this nostalgic new series looking at eight key years from the 1980s and 1990s begins with a look at 1985, one of the most remarkable years of the decade. As well as reminiscing about such pop culture highlights as Live Aid, Nick Kamen disrobing in a laundrette to sell jeans, and the launch of MTV. the programme also examines some of the more serious events making headlines. It recalls how the world of football was shaken by two major tragedies, the political changes taking place in Russia, and the sinking of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior.

Channel 5 is already inviting us to cast our minds

Shetland

BBC1, 9pm

New series. On board the Aberdeen to Shetland ferry, a woman witnesses an altercation between two men - one of whom subsequently goes missing. Later, a young boy is admitted to intensive care after consuming pills he mistook for sweets found on the beach. DI Jimmy Perez searches the shoreline and recovers a rucksack containing more pills and a ferry ticket - which a hooded figure tries

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Thinking space

BRAIN GYM

No.359

Codeword

January

Chronic

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off. 21 **C** LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- 7. It enables one to follow the lines laid down (7,6)
- 8. Professor? (8)
- 9. They may be slow wise, too (4) 10. Animals at the
- wheel? (6) 12. Likely to get
- agreeing (2,4) 14. Afraid of such
- cadres (6) 16. Sort of look from the batsman? (6)
- 18. Where Thomas the bighead is buried 17. In company, (4)
- 20. Time to jump? (4,4)
- but don't expect it free (6.1.6)

- 1. The way to cite exciting pity (8) 2. Fish I get in position
- 3. A tree in the hand (4)
- 4. Status as a candidate (8) 5. Where pupils grow
- in our eyes (6) 6. Transaction in wood? (4) 11. They don't intend
- one to go barebacked (8) 13. It's as you were
- without small coins (2,6) 15. Snub polish again
- waywardly conceals it by whatever
- 22. Take court action, 19. A row in the making

Last week's solutions:

10 Terence Rattigan

Niner: DIPLOMATS

21. Chief curved structure (4)

Quick Clues Across

- 7. Diverse (13)
- 8. Disdain (8) 9. Inquires (4)
- 10. Be there (6)
- 12. Close tightly (6)
- 14. Thrust (6)
- 16. Pass (6)
- 18. Annoying child (4)
- 20. Dawn (4-4) 22. Impartial (13)

Quiz: 1 Spain; 2 Wystan Hugh; 3 Cuba;

4 The person in charge of moving and

setting up camera tracks and scenery;

Polynesians; 7 Leo; 8 1971; 9 Orchid;

5 Daedalus; 6 Skirt-like garment worn by

- 1. Newsman (8)
- 2. Alight (6) 3. Shape (4)
- 4. Feeler (8)
- 6. Twilight (4)
- 11. Frail (8)
- 13. Patron (8)
- 15. Decomposed (6) 17. Admission (6)
- 19. Incursion (4) 21. Protection (4)

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to

| 190 | 143 | gives | a buy | / S IIa | ille. | | |
|-----|-----|-------|-------|---------|-------|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

Sudoku

3 1 8 2 1 9 7 5 3 8 6 9 5 7 3 8 6 1 4 8 2

Fill in the grid below so that every column every row and each of the 3x3 all the digits

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Snip; 8 Imposition; 9 Shortage; 10 Reap; 12 Sewords; 14 Solon; 15 Stoves;
17 Better; 18 Then; 19 Derison; 21 Minute-book;
17 Better; 18 Then; 19 Derison; 21 Minute-book;
22 Eddy, Down: 2 Night-wealth; 3 Pier; 4 Spears;
5 Assess; 6 Start out; 7 Snap; 11 Above-board;
18 Ravenous; 16 Sodden; 17 Barrow; 18 Tome;
20 Sake. QUICK - Across: 1 Sway; 8 Ameliorate; 9 Economic; 10 Type; 12 Script; 14 Stress;
15 Paused; 17 Punish; 18 Etna; 19 Malapert;
21 Discretion; 22 Gate. Down: 2 Witchcraft; 3
Yawn; 4 Permit; 5 Pisces; 6 Brethren; 7 Dene; 11
Postscript; 13 Instance; 16 Dampen; 17 Pallid;
18 Ends; 20 Pang.

Quiz

1. Of which planet is Rhea is satellite?

- 2. Where, precisely, is the Sargasso Sea? 3. In which American state is the city of
- 4. What sort of a bird is a wryneck?
- 5. How did British soldier Orde Wingate
- 6. What is the fifth note of a musical
- 7. What is scrimshaw?
- 8. Which architect designed the 1851 Crystal Palace?
- 9. In Australian slang, what does 'the good oil' mean?
- 10. What is a gibus?

Niner

discover a word which uses all nine letters

| 989 | 62 | give | es and | other ooy's r | girl's i | name, | |
|-----|----|------|--------|------------------|----------|-------|---|
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Ω | _ |

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YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING





faced by

Problems

Estate agents you can trust

For most of us buying or selling a home is the most expensive – and stressful – thing we will

ever do.
Some research has even found people claiming it was more painful that being made redundant, getting divorced or even going bankrupt.

So it is absolutely vital to make the right choice when deciding whether to use a traditional estate agent, an online house selling website, one of the new 'hybrid' agents or even just going it alone.

And if you decide to use an estate agent, it is

equally vital to make sure you choose the right one for you.

The best way to be reassured that you are putting yourself in good hands is to look out for

the NAEA logo. The National Association of Estate Agents is the UK's leading professional body for estate agency personnel, being part of a group representing 13,000 members who practice across all aspects of property services both in the UK and overseas.

These include residential and commercial sales and lettings, property management, business transfer, auctioneering and land. The NAEA is also a sister organisation to the Association of

Residential Letting Agents (ARLA). NAEA is dedicated to the goal of professionalism within all aspects of property, estate agency and land. Its aim is to reassure the general public that by appointing an NAEA member to represent them they will receive in return the highest level of integrity and service for all property matters. Both NAEA and ARLA



members are bound by a vigorously enforced Code of Practice and adhere to professional Rules of Conduct. Failure to do so can result in heavy financial penalties and possible expulsion from the associations.

With house prices back on the up, largely because demand for homes currently far outweighs the supply, the property market has become even more of a minefield than in previous years.

Mark Hayward, managing director at the National Association of Estate Agents, says: "In such a lively market, it's important that agents are delivering exceptional standards of service.

"Consumers need to ensure that they are looking for the NAEA logo in estate agents' windows, doors and on websites. NAEA agents integrate high quality and best practice services in to everything they do.

"They are regulated and adhere to a strict code of practice. Whilst problems can and do arise during the process of buying or selling a home, using a NAEA agent will put consumers' minds at ease that any issues can be dealt with in a

professional and safe manner."
Research carried out by the association for its Look for the Logo campaign found nearly two thirds – 60 per cent – of home buyers and

sells had faced problems with their estate agents over the last five years, but 39 per cent had not considered whether their agents were regulated or not That meant their agent might not have been signed up to a code of conduct or have any regulatory body over seeing them. More than a third of those taking part in the survey (37 per cent) admitted that their problems could have been avoided if their agent was better regulated.

The biggest complaint from the UK's property market was the fact that their estate agent had bad communication skills – either not calling them back, or chasing them too much (21 p cent). A further one in seven (14 per cent) felt as though their agent didn't care about them. An additional 13 per cent claimed that their estate agent had not told them about known faults in properties they were looking at. Mark Hayward said: "Buying a property is the biggest purchase and financial commitment of your life, and can be an overwhelming experience. It takes a lot of hard work and research to ensure you are ticking all the right boxes, and no doubt people come across many challenges along the way. An estate agent should really be there to help this process, not hinder, and therefore the choice of which agent to go with is an important one "With the extensive administrative tasks and processes involved in buying or selling a home, communication between agents and homeowners is essential. It's the estate agents role to make these processes seem as painfree and seamless as possible, which regulated agents endeavour to do."

the buyer and seller



Bad communication – either not calling enough, or chasing too much: 21 per

Buyer or seller felt as if the agent didn't care about them: 14 per cent care about them: 14 per cent
Not being informed about known
property faults, e.g. – structural issues,
damp, etc: 13 per cent
Making promises they could not keep: 11

Being too pressurising: 10 per cent

Over exaggerating a property description: 10 per cent Over pricing a property that a buyer is

interested in: nine per cent Feeling as if the agent was dishonest: nine per cent

The agent not having all the information the buyer or seller needed e.g. service charges, council tax: eight per cent Not being able to contact the agent:

eight per cent Not putting the right offers to vendors: six

Agents forgetting who the buyer or seller was (too many buyers or sellers on the agents' books at one time): six per cent



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500 3955 Box No: 420135 g COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. Tel No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 418483 ft

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JANE, young 41, very broad-minded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715

ANN,38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355 €

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 405297 YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with.
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SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

FELICITY, 38yrs, attractive petite but shapely lady seeks gent for indoor activities' Age/looks/marital status unimportant but must be discreel and non demanding. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 420235

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609 🖯 LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for

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no: 4115108
JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosynights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

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ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photograph WLTM similar male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359 ₿

420359
DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pils call, AcA. Tel No: 9906 515 3007 Box 418167
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Nell, 1 year old Border Collie, bit shy.
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some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Duby whilst it is still with it's
Duby while the puppy while the

Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
 S. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers.

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Business & Farming

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business directory

accountants

Services for small business



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RENAULT CLIO 1.2 2004, 89,000 miles, blue, electric windows, central locking, 11 months MoT, alloys. £690. 07903 604704.

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RENAULT MEGAN 1.4, 02 reg, fair condition. £250 ono. 07969 193128.

07969 193128.

ROVER 45, 02 reg, 9 months MoT, new head gasket, £350.
Telephone 01902 411467.

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public & legal notices

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Avenue Stourbridge West Midlands, who
ided on 17/08/2015, are required to
send particulars thereof in writing to
send particulars thereof in writing to
the undersigned Solicitors on or before
08/03/2016, after which date the Estate
will be distributed having regard only to
claims and interests of which they have
had notice.

nad notice.
QUALITYSOLICITORS TALBOTS 63 Market Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1AQ

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 4. BROMSGROVE) (SLIP ROADS) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company no. 9346363) has made an Order on the M5 Motorway, at Bromsgrove in the County of Worcestershire, to allow street lighting works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leadin:

The Order will come into force on Monday 11 January 2016.

1. to the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 4; and

 from the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 4.

The work will be carried out over two nights between 20:30 hours and 05:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 18 January 2016.

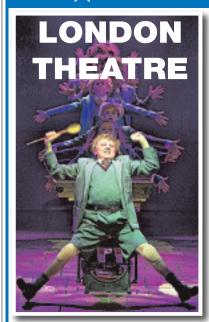
Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer to be exempt from the closures.

Diversion routes via alternative junctions of the M5 will be signed. For further information please contact Leonard Murray on 0121 678 8408

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited Highways England Company Limited (Company no. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.



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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show see brochure for details.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information

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07/57 Jaguar S-Type 2.7D V6 Diesel SE 4dr, Auto, 79k, Grey, Alloys, Savannah Leather, Heated Seats, Sat-Nav, Climate, CD Player, E/windows £6995 / £36 Per Week

08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel 4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, Elwindows £6995 / £36 Per Week

12/12 Skoda Fabia 1.6 TDI CR SE 5dr Diesel Estate *£20 ROAD TAX**Average 67 MPG!* 42k, Red, Alloys, Air-Con, CD, E/Windows £6495 / £34 Per Week

> 09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red Metallic, Alloys, Air con, CD, Heated ft screen £6295 / £33 Per Week

03/53 Mercedes CL500 Automatic Coupe 95k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Sat-Nav, Air Con, CD, BOSE Sound System, E/Windows <u> 25995 / £65 Per Week</u>

Finance example: 10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 plus, Cash Price £3495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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05/55 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Club Diesel [120] 5dr 7 Seater, 50k miles, White, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player 24495 / £23 Per Week

04/04 Mercedes C220 CDI Diesel SE 3dr Automatic Coupe, 77k, Silver, Panoramic Roof, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, Air-Con, E/Windows

2004/54 Toyota Rav 4 2.0 XT4 5dr, *ONE OWNER plus supplying dealer*, 93k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Air Con, CD, EWindows, FSH 3995 / £19 Per Weel

07/57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate 51k, Blue, *LOW INSURANCE* Áir Con, CD, Climate Pack £3695 / £19 Per Week

2005/05 Nissan X-Trail 2.2 DCi 136 SVE Diesel 5dr, 125k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Sat-Nav, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, FSH 3495 / £17 Per Week

10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus 43k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, *Only £30 Road Tax* 23495 / £17 Per Week

> 2002/02 Smart City-Cabriolet Passion Softtouch 2dr Automatic, 44k, Colourwash Yellow, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD 2195 / £25 Per Week





Trip of lifetime with Vauxhall

Wolverhampton Nick and Dawn Bohannan, recently completed the road trip of a lifetime in a new Vauxhall Cascada Elite.

Purchased from local Vauxhall retailer. Evans Halshaw Wolverhampton the Cascada Elite CDTI is the first Vauxhall the Bohannans have ever owned.

Finished in limited edition white, with full leather interior, and European maps on the built-in Sat Nav the Cascada was designed with the help of the team at the dealership, so the Bohannans could experience the holiday of their

The couple travelled all the way from their home in Penn, down to Ports-

all the way to Provence in the South of France. On the way they stopped off at beautiful attractions such as the Loire Valley, and even followed in the tyre treads of champions in a visit to Monaco and the famous Grand Prix track.

Nick said: "This trip was something my wife and I had been wanting to do for a while and finally decided that this was our year to do it! The team at the dealership were really helpful and made sure we got everything we need-

"The continental sat nav made all the difference and gave us the freedom to go wherever we wanted. To top it off the car is incredible, very comfortable, roomy and economical; I'd highly recommend it!'

All in all the Bohannans and their

Cascada travelled just over 2,600 miles in two weeks and even that wasn't enough, as the pair are already planning their next road trip through Spain

Ben Vale, dealer principal at Evans Halshaw Vauxhall Wolverhampton, said: "It's lovely that we were able to help Nick and Dawn fulfil their dream of a road trip holiday, I was confident that the Cascada would do them proud, so when they dropped in to tell us how fantastic their trip had been it was really heart-warming.

"It's a fantastic car and Nick and Dawn are a great example of how chatting through everything you want from a car with your sales leader can ensure we make the best recommendations

for you.
"We wish them all the best on their



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| 06/56 | VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE 5-dr, Pannacotta, 53,000 miles | £3195 | 14/64 | DACIA SANDERO STEPWAY 1.5 DCI LAUREATE 5-dr, Black, 20,000 miles | £8995 |
| 07/07 | CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 VTX 5-dr, Silver, 54,000 miles | £3195 | 07/57 | BMW X3 2.0D M-SPORT 4x4 5-dr, Black, 75,000 miles | £8995 |
| 09/09 | PEUGEOT 207 1.4 VTI S 5-dr, Black, 50,000 miles | £4195 | 12/12 | PEUGEOT 207CC 1.6 HDI GT 2-dr, Black, 22,000 miles | |
| 10/60 | VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI ENERGY 3-dr, Red, 68,000 miles | £4395 | 13/63 | DACIA DUSTER 1.5 DCI LAUREATE 5-dr, Grey, 22,000 miles | |
| 10/10 | VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXI 5-dr, Black, 63,000 miles | | 14/14 | NISSAN JUKE 1.6 VISIA 5-dr, Red, 22,000 miles | |
| 07/57 | VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRI (XP) 3-dr, Black, 45,000 miles | £4750 | 09/09 | FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-2 3-dr, Black, 34,000 miles | |
| 11/61 | KIA PICANTO 1.0 5-dr, Silver, 19,000 miles | | 10/10 | FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 5-dr, Silver, 46,000 miles | |
| 10/60 | FORD FIESTA 1.25 EDGE 5-dr, Black, 60,000 miles | | 15/64 | RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE Sat Nav, Blue, 10,000 miles | • |
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Halesowen Chronicle

DRIVETIME



New RAV4 arrives in the UK

ered versions of the new RAV4 have arrived in the UK, pathfinders for the new range which will include the first hybrid RAV4 from the middle of this month.

The latest development of the original market-defining compact SUV introduces a new 2.0-litre D-4D diesel engine and an improved 2.0-litre petrol unit to offer a winning combination of lower CO2 emissions and better fuel economy, together with a rewarding driving performance.

matched to a six-speed manual gear-box, produces 141bhp and 320Nm of torque, giving the front-wheel drive RAV4 combined cycle fuel economy from 60.1mpg with carbon emissions from 123g/km.

All-wheel

The 149bhp 2.0-litre Valvematic petrol engine that's an established feature of the RAV4 range comes with CVT automatic transmission and all-wheel

Its benchmark performance figures have been improved to 152g/km and 43.5mpg for combined cycle CO2 output and fuel economy.

road with detailed changes to its front and rear styling.

There are also new headlight and rear lamp clusters and new 17 and 18-

inch alloy wheel designs.
In the cabin, Toyota has responded to customer feedback, improving the sensory quality, improving the ambient lighting design, adding new storage points and tidying up the layout of the

area around the gear shift.

There is clearer presentation of information to the driver using a new 4.2-inch colour multi-information multi-information display, together with the seven-inch touchscreen that gives access to the Toyota Touch 2 multimedia system.

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Boy racer favourite grows up just a bit

By John Griffiths

It was like being reunited with an old friend -Subaru's sporting flagship and favourite of a generation of rally drivers is back.

But the latest WRX STi is a different car to its predecessors: still the same extraordinary performance and handling but with a bigger cabin equipped to premium car standards.

At a fiver under £29,000, it's a combination which make

it a serious competitor in the market place as well as on the

It tackles the 0 to 62mph sprint in 5.2 seconds and is capable of almost 160mph: but with its rally-honed four wheel drive system adding traction and stability through the cor-

ners it's real world performance where the car shines.

And, as proof of the pudding, a standard production version of the car smashed the lap record for four wheelers on the twisty Isle of Man TT circuit. In the hands of British rally ace Mark Higgins, it completed the 37.75 miles in 19 minutes 15.9 seconds, at an average speed of 117.51mph breaking the record held by its predecessor, the last gen-

eration WRX, by more than 40 seconds.

The power comes from a turbocharged 2.5 litre version of Subaru's signature 'boxer', the distinctive sounding four cyl-inder horizontally opposed engine which produces 300PS and 407Nm of torque.

That's the same as the previous generation, although competition examples were often 'chipped' to raise the output even more. But the new engine and turbo have also been reworked to produce much quicker 'in gear' acceleration (for overtakes and between corners), typically in the

There's also the tSI-Drive system, which sets the car's responses to one of three modes, from best fuel efficiency to Sport Sharp' where the engine's full potential is unleashed.

The WRX disappeared from the British scene a few years ago, largely because of exchange rates between the pound and the Japanese Yen during the recession.

Now it's back, still with the trademark bonnet air scoop

and big rear wing, but in many ways significantly different.
The starting point is all-new architecture built using a
much higher percentage of high tensile steel, with reinforcements at strategic points, so that it's an amazing 140 per cent stiffer than its predecessor. That benefits suspension and steering response, while also making the car stronger in the event of an accident.

There's a new hydraulic steering system, too, with more driver 'feel' and it's high geared for a sharp and very precise turn -in to corners. With the new short-throw, six speed gearbox it does feel like being in the driving seat of a racing car if it weren't for the fact that you're in superb sports seats, fin-ished in alcantara with leather side bolsters, with dual zone climate control and an upmarket stereo system.

The Subaru's all surface cornering ability is due in no

small part to its sophisticated all wheel drive system. which has a highly technical centre differential. The default position is a straight 50/50 power distribution between front and real is a straight so/power distribution between front and lear wheels, but if either start to slip a higher percentage torque is transferred to those with more grip. There's also a torque vectoring system, reducing power to outside wheels under hard cornering to the reduce the risk of over or under steer.

This system also has a three mode setting, for slippery conditions through to allowing more power to the rear wheels, for greater agility. Multi-mode vehicle dynamic control and traction systems are standard equipment.

Over poorer surfaces, you are still aware that the WRX is

a high performance car, but it's new suspension system has been tuned and damped to provide a more supple, civilised ride without sacrificing dynamic ability. The car also gets more stopping power with larger, 17-inch ventilated disc brakes all round, with a braking system from Brembo.

In redesigning the WRX, Subaru not only created more cabin space front and rear but also moved the A-pillars and

lowered the dash, to give the driver a wider field of vision.

The cabin is now a little wider, with room for five adults. a 460-litre boot and lots of storage spaces. The driver gets clear instruments and with a full colour information screen between the speedo and rev counter. Positioned centre top on the dashboard is another colour display screen, unique to the WRX. For the sporting driver or competitor, you car monitor such things as boost pressure or the AWD system. as well as more mundane things such as the time

It's a sporting saloon in every sense of the word, better equipped and more comfortable while undercutting rivals. As with any such car, it isn't bargain basement when it

comes to running costs. The official fuel average is 27.2mpg with a CO2 rating of 242g/km.

It is grown and matured, no longer the boy racer's car (an insurance rating of 40E would see to that) it's now more of a value for money executive express for the real enthusiast. But don't be surprised if quite a few turn up in rallies and

Blues star **Gray Iured** to Premier by Foxes

PREMIER League title cnasers Leicester City have completed the signing of Demarai Gray from Blues for an undisclosed fee. Leicester have moved quickly to follow up their summer interest in

tollow up their summer interest in the highly-rated 19-year-old. Gray, who has signed a four-and-a-half-year deal at the King Power Stadium, said: "It's been my dream to play in the Premier League since I started playing football so I'm very happy to join the club. the club.

"It's a great club. The facilities are great and for a player like me it's an ideal place for me to im-

prove."
He could go straight into the
Leicester squad for their FA Cup
third-round tie against Tottenham
at White Hart Lane on Sunday.
Meanwhile, striker Oumar Niasse is believed to be onVilla's
radar as Remi Garde looks to
overhaul bis could in time to keep

asse is believed to be of Whita's radar as Remi Garde looks to overhaul his squad in time to keep them in the Premier League.

The Lokomotiv Moscow forward is currently enjoying a prolific season in Russia, scoring 12 goals in 21 appearances. Capped five times by Senegal, Niasse can play out wide or as a centre forward.

But Villa are likely to face competition for the 25-year-old with Chelsea, Everton and Newcastle also reported to be keen.

It's believed Lokomotiv have slapped a £15 million price tag on the head of Niasse who is known for his his pace, strength and high work-rate.

Another potential target could be Pareze centra head. With Rolt.

work-rate.

Another potential target could be Braga centre-back Wily Boly, a 6ft 3ins Auxerre starlet and a former France under-16, under-17 and under-19 international who is

Success for club's quartet of swimmers

FOUR Halesowen Swimming Club members travelled to the 10-lane Ponds Forge pool in Sheffield for the ASA National Winter meet.

ASA National Winter meet.

The tough qualifying times meant that only the best in the country were able to attend.

Richard Spoor, aged 23, achieved gold in the 100m breaststroke and two silvers – at 50m and 200m.

Josh Bradley, 22, was superb in the 100m Individual Medley final coming eighth overall. He achieved a time of 57.11 seconds, beating his earlier heat time, which was a West Midlands Regional all time record.

Hannah Taleb, 18, swam in three finals and obtained seventh place in the 200m breaststroke, ninth in the 100m breaststroke and 10th in

the 100m breaststroke and 10th in the 100m Individual Medley Sev enteen-year-old Chloe Finch came eighth in the 400m freestyle.

England expects from volleyball duo I can handle



Charlotte Breen, left, and Katy Murmanis

TALENTED teenagers Charlotte Breen and Katy Murmanis will start the new year with Georgia on their minds after earning national

The Wolverhampton duo are set to represent England in the first round of the CEV Volleyball Eu-ropean Under-19 Championships.

The girls have landed a place in the 12-strong squad that faces clashes against hosts Georgia and Belarus later this week.

Breen, aged 17, and Murmanis,

16, started their playing careers with Tettenhall, aged 10 and 11 respectively, and still represent the club in the West Midlands League as well as turning out for Black Country Volleyball Club in the higher standard National League.

Their potential has now caught the eye of the England selectors.

The call up for Breen, who attends Kings School, and Coppice High School student Murmanis has also delighted Peter Bragg, chairman of Black Country Vol-

three clubs – Tettenhall, Redhill in Stourbridge and Cleobury Mor-timer.

He said: "It's great to see Charlotte and Katy earn national recognition."

Mr Bragg added: "We formed Mr Bragg added: we formed Black Country four years ago to provide a pathway for players to progress to a higher level.

"We have had a women's team for four seasons and now we have

added two men's teams," he added.

Sandal are given the boot by Stour

STOURBRIDGE gave Sandal the boot in their opening clash of the new year.

A heavy surface, resolute Sandal back line and a rash of early penalties meant the hosts spent much of the opening exchanges on the defensive, the occasional foray into the visitors 22 produc-

the occasional foray into the visitors 22 produc-ing a couple of opportunities that went begging. But scrum half Toby Handley reacted first to secure possession and drive over from short range when the ball went loose at a scrum. Stour's attacking game suddenly clicked to produce a breathtaking purple patch in which their pace, running lines and offloading defied the conditions and overwhelmed the visitors with four tries in hearty over 10 minutes.

with four tries in barely over 10 minutes.
Neat passing out of the tackle by centre James
Otutaha and outside half Rod Petty put centre
Joe Heatley clear near halfway, he drew the last defender and fed a scoring pass to no.8 Connor Nicholls on his inside shoulder.

Siege

A speculative crossfield kick proved fruitless when the chaser drifted offside, Sandal outside half Greg Wood briefly lifting the siege with a well-struck penalty kick.

But Stour found touch in the Sandal 22 from a penalty award, upped the tempo and lock forward Chris Roddy's pass worked flanker Joe Carpenter over the try line.

The restart saw no respite and as Sandal's defensive line buckled, Heatley was worked through, finding Elvers whose footwork left the defenders for dead.

defenders for dead.

detenders for dead.

The early second half proved an anti-climax, both sides gifting turnovers with handling errors, but the Stour pack got to work in the scrum to force a penalty.

Petty spotted Elvers unmarked out wide and

landed a perfectly weighted punt for him to score

is second try.

A yellow card for prop Stef Thorp took the momentum out of Stour's game, Carpenter sacrificed to accommodate replacement prop Adam rinced to accommodate replacement prop Adam Sturdy. Sandal grasped their opportunity and found touch in the Stour 22 and ground over a maul for a try for replacement Luke Norbury. A turnover led to a breakaway try for Frewin near the end, completing the scoring at 33-15.

Tennis players get in the mix



Participants during the mix-in sessions at Wollaston Tennis Club

WOLLASTON Tennis Club members were out in force over the

Christmas and new year period.

The club again ran its traditional Boxing Day and New Year's Day mix-in sessions and these once again proved very successful with more than 40 members taking part across the age ranges, many attending on both occasions. The sessions ended a busy 2015

programme for the club and wel-

comed in 2016. Mix-ins allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy doubles sets with a variety of part-

ners and opposition.

Players can just turn up and make themselves known and mix in. They are a great opportunity for players to get to know other club members and to develop their games. Each mix-in session was followed by a drink and mince pies in the clubhouse. The Prestwood

Drive Club is keen to build on its achievements from 2015.

Chairman John Cutler said: "To see so many members playing on New Year's Day really shows the enthusiasm within the club, and we look forward to another busy

year of tennis in 2016."

For membership details or to look around the club, email to look around the club, WLTC@outlook.com or www.wollastontennis.co.uk

the pressure says Wolves boss Jackett

WOLVES boss kenny Jackett says he's fully aware of the criticism he gets from fans – but is thick-skinned enough to deal with it. Jackett has come in for strong verbal attacks this season, espe-

cially on social media

and while admitting he takes his job home with him and that his family probably suffer as a result, he said he never forgets the privi-leged position he's in.

he said he never forgets the privileged position he's in.

"You do definitely take it home with you," he said. "I enjoy my job, I enjoy being in management. I know that if you want to be in it you can't win all the time, but you don't lose all the time either.

"Do my family suffer? Probably. But it's a privilege to be in it, particularly at a club like Wolves, Wolves is a massive club and a great club and it's a privilege to be in this position, you should never forget that. I value it and enjoy it."

The Wolves boss added of any abuse he gets: "You definitely know what's going on, you're aware of it.

"You'll stop at a petrol station and somebody will tell you, so you do know.

"I accept that the better you."

do know.

"I accept that the better you do or higher up you go, the more focus there is.

"My dad was a professional footballer. When I was 16 and came into it he said it was a tough life but a great life, and he said you need to be very thick-skinned.

"He played in the 1950s. And he went on the train with the fans, on the way back (after a game)."

Meanwhile Jackett insists there hasn't been a single enquiry made

hasn't been a single enquiry made for Benik Afobe, despite rumours of Championship rivals Derby County mounting a bid.

No grounds for complaint after defeat

AFC Ludlow 5 Team Dudley 1 TEAM Dudley's trip to AFC Ludlow was saved from the weather by the was saved non the weather by the hosts' 3G pitch, but it was Ludlow who secured an emphatic victory in West Midlands Division One – extending their lead at the top of the table in the process

tending their read at the top of the table in the process. Dudley went down 5-1, with their only bright spot coming at 3-0 down when Myles Nettleford was brought down and Nathan Jones converted

the resultant penalty.

Kieron Dovey opened the scoring before Dale Hodge doubled the advantage, albeit with a hint of offside. Team Dudley can have no complaints overall though and Dovey

added his second after the interval

before Jones pulled one back.

But Ludlow added two more to go nap through substitute Robert Vass and Keanu Cooper.

Final whistle



If you want the definitive read on the weekend football action there is only one place to go - Final whistle supplement in the Express & Star.

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Players get into the tennis mix Page 39

England call for volleyball pair Page 39



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Graves puts Nail in Tivi coffin late on

Belper Town 3 Tividale 0
TIVIDALE remain 11 points adrift at the bottom after a 3-0 defeat at Belper Town.

Town.

Aaron Cole's deflected strike gave Belper the lead on the stroke of half-time, which was added to by Evan Garnett and Eric Graves after the break.

The game went ahead after an early pitch inspection deemed the Marston's Stadium fit to host this Evo-Stik Division One South fixture.

Due to a spate of players injured and

sion One South fixture.

Due to a spate of players injured and unavailable, Tividale Manager Phil Male included youngsters Shaquille Leachman-Whittingham, Desean Martin and Shane Grainger to the starting line up and alongside Demetri Brown made it possibly the youngest midfield Tividale have ever fielded. With only the manager and Jacob Barnes available as defenders he also had to change to a back three with Craig Stevens playing alongside them.

The Nailers first chance fell to Gar-The Nauers mrst chance fell to Garnett, Williams whipped the ball in and Thomas Turner in the Tividale goal dropped it as Ben Watkis challenged him, Garnett hooked the loose ball towards goal but Turner got back up and caught the ball.

caught the ball.

But the hosts did score first on the stroke of half-time, Rob Stevenson set the ball back to the full-back who took a touch a drilled the ball hard and low via a deflection past Tom Turner and into the bottom corner from 25-yards out. Evan Garnett doubled the lead just be

Evan Garnett doubled the lead just be-fore the hour mark with the pick of the afternoon's goals, Stevenson played the ball into him on the edge of the box, he flicked the ball up and emphatically vol-leyed home left-footed. Belper captain Eric Graves completed the scoring with a powerful header from a Sam Wood corner in the 83rd minute.

Yeltz show hosts no Mersey with latest away win

Marine 0 Halesowen Town 3

HALESOWEN grabbed their fourth
away win of the season with an impressive victory on Merseyside.

The game only went ahead after an
early morning pitch inspection following
heavy rain but it seemed to hold up well.

Kaiman Anderson gave the Yeltz the
lead in the 13th minute when he headed
home from a Danny Bragoli cross.

lead in the 13th minute when he headed home from a Danny Bragoli cross.

Marine's best chance came in the first half when Lloyd Ellams turned and saw his shot tipped wide by Halesowen keeper Shaun Rowley.

Ashley Parsons-Smith grabbed the second and deciding goal for the visitors on 56 minutes when he ran towards goal before curling a beautiful left footed shot into the ton corner.

into the top corner.

And Malcolm Melvin made sure it And Malcolm Melvin made sure it was a great start to the new year for Halesowen in the 83rd minute when he tapped home at the far post after full-back Luke Connolly had pulled it back. Veltz: Rowley, Connolly, Griffiths, Denny, Hull, Parsons-Smith, Charlton, Bragoli, Anderson, Melvin, Michel-Gueyes. Subs: Morrison, Turner, Westwood, Watson. Watson. Attendance: 409.

Glassboys hopes ram-raided by visitors

Stourbridge 2 Ramsbottom United 3

STOURBRIDGE missed the opportunity to push on towards the Evo-Stik Northern Premier playoff picture as they slipped to defeat against bottom-of-the-table Ramsbottom United.

The Glassboys surprise defeat was the visitors' first away victory of the season.

The hosts suffered a largely-frustrating first period despite a quick start to proceedings

Karl Hawley fired straight at keeper Grant Shenton in the sixth minute before Ben Billing-ham rattled the woodwork with an inswinging free-kick from the right flank on 15.

Stourbridge FC

A breakaway kick from Shenton on the halfhour-mark found Aaron Smith behind the Stour-bridge defence and although his shot was saved by Charlie Pice, Jordan Bove followed up to score, giving the Greater Manchester outfit the lead.

Stour toiled for large parts of the second half as they tried to get back in the game but failed to create clear-cut chances and, when they did put the ball in the box, Shenton and his defence dealt with it.

But the Glassboys were back in the game

EUBEN PAC

through a strong strike from Leon Broadhurst on 75 minutes and at this stage Gary Hackett's men ere looking to win the game.
Ramsbottom substitute Danny Wilkins had

other ideas though and, just five minutes after coming on, headed home at the far post from a corner before firing low past Price seven minutes later, leaving Stourbridge a mountain to climb.

Justin Richards did give Stour hope a minute later with a drive into the net, but it proved too close to the end for them to snatch an equaliser. Stourbridge: Price, Green, Scarr, Geddes (Wright 72), Smilke, Plerpoint (c), Dodd (Hales 72) Broadhurst, Hawley, Richards, Billingham (Latt 62); Subs not used: Knight, Clarke, Attendance: 652.

Ellis moved to tears by Villa's plight

FORMER Villa supremo Doug Ellis admits the club's current plight has moved him to tears.

But the 92-year-old insists he does not

But the 92-year-old insists he does not regret selling the club to American billionaire Randy Lerner in 2006.

Villa's former owner revealed he is coming to terms with their 'inevitable' relegation following the 3-1 loss to Sunderland, which leaves them on just eight

points.
Ellis, who was club chairman for 31 years, said: "Relegation is inevitable now and any tears are now rather than at a specific time.
"To me I sold to a good man in Randy

To me I sold to a good man in Randy Lerner. I put blood, sweat and toil into the club but, when the time comes, I won't be surprised we are relegated. Therefore, I am suffering now rather than then. Nevertheless It will be a very

sad day when we are no longer in the Premier League."

"It never entered my head then when I sold the club but I don't regret selling

"I am a great believer in a gentleman's handshake.

"I had a lot of business with 18 or 19 chairmanships throughout my business life. I have always valued the ones where there hasn't been a lot of paperwork and just a simple shake of hands.

"If both sides agree to what we said at the shake of a hand then I am a happy man. To me he is a perfect example of

that.
"He said he will put money in, I think it was £200million, he did do and has done. He has shaken hands and kept his word but it is just a pity the people he has appointed as managers and the amount of money he has given them hasn't worked out."

Promising striker Callum Robinson has joined Preston North End on loan for a third time, staying at Deepdale until the end of the season. The 20-year-old has made 28 appear-ances in two previous spells.

Reuben Charlesworth, centre, celebrates after another win

A KICKBOXING world champion aims to make his fists do the

talking after setting his sights on the boxing world. Halesowen's Reuben Charlesworth is

no stranger to success, having picked up no fewer than 12 world titles as a kickboxer.

In that respect, the 18-year-old's early success in the boxing world should come as little surprise. Charlesworth has won all three of his bouts so far and his coach and his father Jason reckons he has the potential to go far.

"Reuben was looking to try something different so boxing was an obvious step for him," said mar-tial arts coach Jason. "Even so, it has been a little surprising how quickly he's taken to it. "I've had a couple of former professionals come

down to the $\operatorname{\mathsf{gym}}$ and watch $\operatorname{\mathsf{him}}$ and they've been really impressed.

Amateur

"He is determined to do well. What can I say, the kid just likes to fight."
Charlesworth has won all three of his bouts at BBU Boxing events – a relatively new organisation looking to fill the gap between the professional and amateur ranks.

He is one of several fighters training at the Pride Boxing Centre, which is part of the Hale-sowen Martial Arts Centre, in Forge Lane at the Chemix Centre.

It is run by Jason who has been training fighters since 1993.

ers since 1993.

Another member of the gym, Keiran Biggs, claimed a debut victory in the latest show.

"Keiran is a nervous young man and it took him a lot of courage to step into the ring," said Charlesworth senior, himself a successful martial arts fighter. "But he won all three rounds and showed a lot of character."

Jason has trained in boxing, tae kwon do and wing chun and has coached a host of world champions.

Both he and Julie, his wife and sidekick were added to the Martial Arts Hall of Fame in both 2000 and 2001.

Call 07889 627929 or email cma_kickboxing@ hotmail.com for more about the centre

Old Hales back in hockey action

HOCKEY leagues will resume this weekend following the Christmas break, with Old Halesonians among those in action.

In the Midlands Premier Dirision, Stourport Men will take on North Stafford, while Old Hales, sitting in fourth place in Midlands One, host Bridgnorth.

Hales will continue to chase Barton for third place, while Bridgnorth - one place and

three points further back - will continue to chip away at the Hales. Bloxwich, who are currently

Blownch, who are currently chasing Market Drayton for third place in the West Midlands Premier, will travel to take on Wednesbury, while top-of-the-table Streetly will host Kings Heath Pickwick.

Old Wulfrunians will continue to try and make an impression in the league - they are currently second from bottom with just three points. They welcome Aldridge and

Walsall on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Stourport Under-18 Girls have qualified for the National Indoor Finals in Lon-don. Victories over Belper (8-0), Lichfield (9-0) and Telford (5-1) secured their place, despite defeat to Beeston (6-2)

Foundry too hot in darts knockout

THE FOUNDRY proved too hot for their rivals as they claimed the the Sedgley & Gornal Darts League Team Knockout. The Dudley-based side beat Gornal Labour Club 5-3 in the first semi-final.

Sedgley Ex-Servicemen's Club then booked their spot in the final with a hard-fought 5-4 win against Netherton Cricket Club.

The Foundry then clinched the trophy with a 5-3 success in the shoot-out for

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